Drilon urges all Cabinet secretaries to resign

Story on PAGE A2

Vintage Imeldific: Democracy is God

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—It was vintage Imeldific. Speaking before an Ilocano crowd yesterday, the former first lady displayed her flamboyant if rather curious command of English.

"You may be forsaken, abandoned by

VINTAGE/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

She received cash in computer boxes

By Arlyn dela Cruz
Contributor

(Fourth of a series)

HOW did former first lady Imelda Marcos receive the alleged P2-billion settlement? In cash, six Marcos loyalists said yesterday.

They claimed representatives of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. used "com-

SHE/ A19

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Wednesday, November 13, 2002 ★ 64 pages / 5 sections / vol. 17 / no. 338 P15
website: www.inq7.net

Yorac: ₱2-B payoff probably by PLDT

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

"THE BIGGEST claim in the history of mankind is from the Marcoses (worth $43 billion), bigger than the $32 billion budget of Marcos of 20 years," says Imelda Marcos in Laoag.

SC asked to compel Imelda to testify

By Juliet L. Javellana and Donna S. Cueto

IT IS probably PLDT.

Chair Haydee Yorac of the Presidential Commission on Good Government told Congress yesterday the P2-billion mystery settlement that former first lady Imelda Marcos reportedly entered into likely involved the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Yorac then asked the Supreme Court to compel Marcos to testify on the PLDT case pending before the Sandiganbayan.

She said the PLDT case was the third biggest ill-gotten wealth case that the PCGG was going after, after the Marcos Swiss deposits now worth $700 million and the coconut levy funds invested in crony corporations.

In Makati City, one of the lawyers who signed the controversial billing letter addressed to Marcos—it assumed a "settlement amount" and was accompanied by a "revised schedule of payment"—confirmed that the letter was authentic.

But Armando Marcelo of the Ponce Enrile Reyes and Manalastas law firm denied that the letter was about the PLDT ownership dispute, and said that the attached P2-billion "schedule of payment" in the copy obtained by the PCGG was just "manufactured."

"We had nothing to do with that," Marcelo said.

But Yorac told congressmen deliberating on the PCGG budget that there were indications the P2-billion settlement was indeed over the PLDT shares.

YORAC/ A19

All passengers of Flight 585 accounted for

By Philip C. Tubeza and Juliet Cataluna
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ALL accounted for.

Coast Guard and Navy divers yesterday recovered the remains of the last five passengers from the wreckage of the Laoag International Airline Fokker 27 plane that crashed on Monday into Manila Bay, raising the final death toll to 19.

Vice Adm. Reuben Lista, Coast Guard commander, said the body of Australian Sam Coddington was found floating about 150 meters from the crash site at about 5 p.m. It was also near this spot that divers earlier recovered the body of Jefferson Mata, a Filipino.

The bodies of John Benson and Nick Wright, both Australians, and Minh Nguyen,

ALL/ A18

THE PRICE of loving is grieving. At a funeral parlor in Sampaloc, Manila, President Macapagal tries to console Mrs. Gina Padilla, widow of Joaquin Padilla, one of the 19 fatalities in the Laoag Air crash on Monday.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Lawmaker stops short of naming Nani Perez

By Juliet L. Javellana

HE STOPPED short of naming Justice Secretary Hernando Perez but Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama yesterday dared him to investigate what he called the "million-dollar Cabinet member.

And the person who bribed the Cabinet secretary with $2 million was ready to come out in the open on condition that he would be admitted to the government's witness protection program, Villarama made the disclosure in a privilege speech.

The $2 million was wired to an account transferred from the Trade and Commerce Bank in Uruguay to the Cabinet secretary's alleged bank account in tts

LAWMAKER/ A18

Probers focus on engine failure; owner hints at sabotage

By Norman Bordadora
in Manila
and Christina Azardon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

EVEN as investigators were focusing on engine failure as the cause of the crash of Laoag International Airline Flight 585, the Malaysian owner of the ill-fated Fokker 27 commercial plane yesterday suggested it could have been sabotage.

Thirty-four people were aboard the twin-engine aircraft bound for Laoag City when it crashed into Manila Bay shortly after taking off from the Manila Domestic Airport at 6:07 a.m. on Monday. Nineteen people were killed while 15 were rescued.

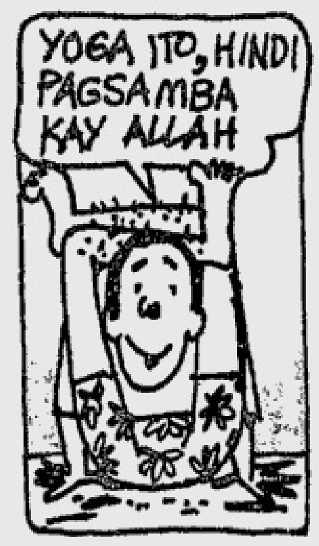
Air Transportation Office chief Adelberto Yap said a video footage taken by an amateur cameraman showed that the right propeller was not turning as the aircraft went down. Australian Steve Thompson said he saw smoke coming from the left engine just before the pilot told him and the other passengers to brace for impact.

"I suspect it's sabotage by other people ... I suspect that they may have put water inside the wing tank during the night," Capt. Paul Ng, owner of LaoagAir, told a press briefing in Laoag City.

Ng said the plane's two engines could not have malfunctioned, considering their condition.

Asked if he had anyone in

PROBERS/ A18



YOGA ITO, HINDI PAGSAMBA KAY ALLAH

ONE of the boys at the Philippine Military Academy in Fort del Pilar, Baguio City is a beauty named Cadet Second Class Stephanie Arden Cacho (3rd from left). She poses with other beauties who are candidates of the Miss Asia-Pacific Quest 2002 visiting the PMA.

Miss SRI LANKA
Miss PHILIPPINES
MISS TURKEY
Miss NEW CALEDONIA
PERU
THAILAND
MISS RUSSIA

E.B. ESPIRITU/ PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

This PMA mistah is a beauty in grey

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI N. Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—Lithe and bubbly candidates of the Miss Asia Pacific Quest 2002 posed gamely with cadets at the Philippine Military Academy here on Monday, but few of them realized that "one of the boys" was a female and pageant "veteran."

"I used to join beauty contests like this . . . in school," said Cadet Second Class Stephanie Arden Cacho, 21, a native of Daet, Camarines Norte. "I was chubbier and I had long, wavy hair, but I was always volunteered to join, so I joined."

"(The Asia Pacific contestants right now) feel very special, because all of these people focus their attention on (them)," Cacho said.

INT'L/ A18

Rich, aging hippies spark terror scare

APIA, Samoa—A group of well heeled but aging hippie artists who have taken over a Samoan resort for a year has sparked Pacific-wide rumors, strongly denied Monday, that Muslim terrorists were building a base there.

The group includes three Americans, Filipinos, Nepalese, Britons and Germans. More are expected to join them when their visas and other travel documents

RICH/ A18

GMA praises Dante Ang for quitting P1-a-year job

By Carlito Pablo and Blanche S. Rivera

PRAISEWORTHY, President Macapagal-Arroyo described the resignation yesterday of Dante Ang as her senior consultant on public relations, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

Tiglao said that President Macapagal had high praise for Ang, who resigned, among other reasons, out of *delicadeza* and in order to dispel suspicions that he had abused his close ties with Ms. Macapagal.

"The President appreciates such response from her consultant," Tiglao said in his regular press briefing. "Such delicadeza is praise worthy."

To protect his business interests and Ms Macapagal's presidential bid were the reasons cited by Ang for leaving his one-peso-a-year post which he held for barely seven months.

Ang, however, will continue to hold his post as chief of the government sequestered network, IBC 13.

Ang said he can now concentrate on strengthening the President's political party, the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), which he heads as pres-

GMA/ A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2002

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northeastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/11/13/02

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

'Endgame' halted

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The military has temporarily suspended Operation Endgame in Sulu, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya said yesterday.

Abaya acknowledged a failure in "intelligence build-up" so that all intelligence information will have to be reviewed first before the military operation to wipe out the Abu Sayyaf bandit group could go on to the next level.

"We have to regroup, review and check our intelligence reports. But we are about to resume," he said.

The eight battalions of government soldiers deployed in Sulu would remain in the province, except for a company of Scout Rangers that would be sent off for re-training.

Oplan Endgame started on Aug. 22. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'COURTESY RESIGNATION'

Drilon asks Cabinet to quit

By Cynthia D. Balana

SENATE President Franklin Drilon yesterday urged all Cabinet members to hand over their "courtesy resignation" to give President Macapagal-Arroyo a free hand in reorganizing her Cabinet.

In a talk with Senate reporters, Drilon said that a wholesale resignation by the Cabinet executives would enable the President to effectively review their performance and spare them the humiliation of being unexpectedly fired.

"You know, the oft-repeated phrase 'we serve at the pleasure of the President' has been abused. It would probably be better that the Cabinet members, all of them, submit their courtesy resignation. It is traditional anyway," he said.

Submitting a courtesy resignation each December was required of all Cabinet members during the Aquino administration, said Drilon who was President Aquino's justice, labor and executive secretary.

But Drilon said the revamp at this time should focus only on the Cabinet and should not include government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs).

Sen. Ralph Recto earlier urged the President to expand the revamp to include the GOCCs and government financial institutions.

"There is no reason at this point to ask for the resignation of everybody. (We should) leave the judgment to the President," Drilon said.

The Senate President conceded that some Cabinet members lacked public approval.

"That the administration is doing well is disputed by some quarters. Sometimes perception also counts. It's how you project yourself, how you inform the public of your performance," he said.

Administration Sen. Joker Arroyo, however, believes a Cabinet revamp was unnecessary.

"You don't need that. You mean you will train another department secretary? That is difficult. It takes time to learn the job," Arroyo said.

Asked if only the non-performing Cabinet members should be asked to submit courtesy resignations, Arroyo said: "Nobody would file. Nobody would admit to being incompetent."

Opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan said courtesy resignations were "only good for media, good for form but not good for substance."

"Why not fire those who need to be fired? No more courtesy resignations. That is inconsequential and has no effect," said Honasan.

Several opposition senators called for the ouster of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes for allegedly failing to, respectively, stop the growing budget deficit and put an end to coup rumors.

Drilon said he would not "venture" to say who should be fired.

"But indeed, it is time the President reviews the performance of her Cabinet members after two years in office by December. She should now (be able to) see if her Cabinet is working," he said.

The planned Cabinet revamp is supposed to be part of the President's goal of building a "strong republic."

Meanwhile, Sen. Ralph Recto said government financial managers were "dead wrong" in claiming that the reenactment of the P769.8-billion 2002 national budget would result in savings for the government.

Even if the proposed P804.2-billion budget for 2003 were to be set aside and government goes on to operate under the smaller 2002 budget, "expenditures for 2003 will still be more than P800 billion," Recto said.

Recto, who chairs the Senate ways and means committee, said this was because of the increase in debt service which largely makes up for the P34.4-billion difference between the 2002 and 2003 budgets.

Interest payments on the government's P3-trillion debt will jump by P31.3 billion, from P191.9 billion this year to P223.2 billion next year.

Recto added that adopting the 2002 budget next year would not wipe out the deficit either.

"There will still be a deficit next year and the government will still have a hard time meeting revenue targets," he said. *With a report from Rocky Nazareno*

PSG men get overzealous with media

By Carlito Pablo

"*WALANG* media-media *dito! Utos ito ni Presidente* (We don't care about the media here—President's orders)."

This was how a tall and pretty television reporter learned from a member of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) about tighter security measures that were to be enforced in Malacañang starting yesterday.

Beverly Verches, of the government-sequestered RPN-9, was brought to tears after one Sgt. Bordonada told her off inside the media center at the Kalayaan Hall, where the working area of journalists covering the Palace is located.

Bordonada was more abusive with Verches' video man Jose Alitiit, cursing when the latter tried to get shots of the hall for a story on the new procedures. A Capt. Darilag even whacked Alitiit's camera, which almost fell.

Kalayaan Hall also houses the Palace museum and the Offices of the Press Secretary (OPS) and Presidential Spokesperson.

For the new setup, walkways leading to the hall were cordoned off, so that those going there would have to walk farther, via the PSG's technical inspection center (TIC), where they would be screened with an X-ray machine. The TIC is at the side of the steel sentry gate leading to the main building which houses the Office of the President.

Journalists can no longer wait near this gate to "ambush" administration officials leaving the main building. Instead, they will first have to get out of the Palace compound through another gate, then walk back through yet another.

Like most Malacañang reporters, Verches—who was muse of the 1st Presidential Escorts Company during a recent Palace basketball tournament—was unaware that the stricter procedures were to take effect yesterday.

And so, as the statuesque Verches walked towards Kalayaan, Bordonada yelled at her: "*Hoy, bawal dumaan diyan* (Hey, you can't pass there)!"

Since Verches was already in the hall, she paid little attention to the sergeant, who then followed her. "*Porke media kayo* (Just because you're with media) . . . ," Bordonada grumbled.

PSG commander Brig. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon later apologized to Verches, and suspended the new security measures for two days.

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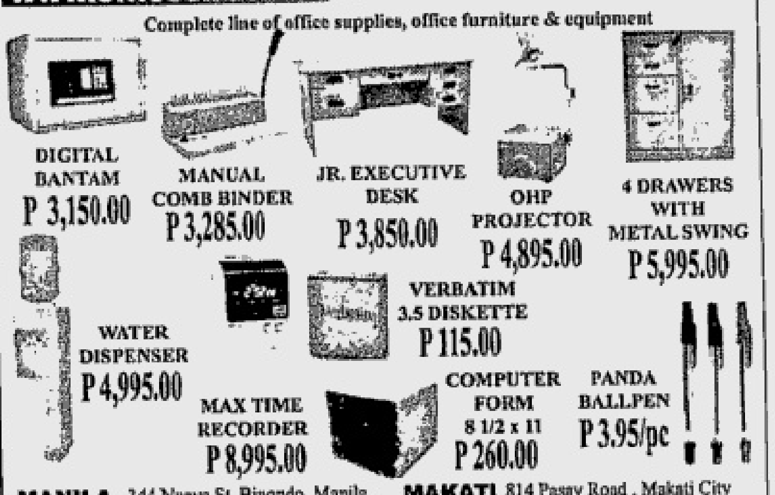

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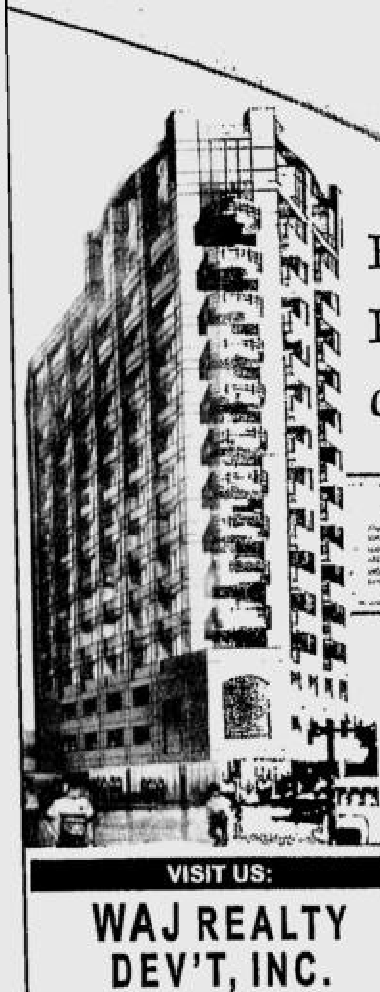

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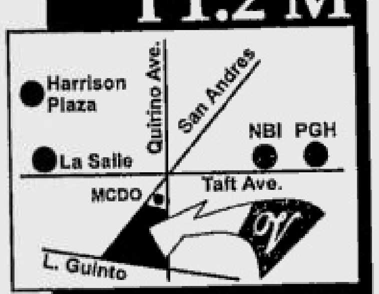

Palace certifies anti-terror bill

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has certified the proposed anti-terrorism bill as "urgent" despite warnings from human rights groups that it could be unconstitutional.

The President told a Cabinet meeting yesterday she would ask legislators to immediately pass the anti-terror law to counter the "growing menace" of terrorism but said she would also caution legislators against trampling on civil rights in the process.

"The President is confident that our legislators can craft a law which will address this problem, but always taking into consideration the rights of persons whom we are trying to protect," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the President's recommendation would help speed up the passage of the anti-terror law and showed the government was firm in its resolve to fight terrorists.

"Terrorism respects neither race nor religion. It knows no boundaries. It follows no laws and respects no constitution," Tiglao said in a statement.

"At the end of the day, we are talking of protecting our children, our homes and our communities," said Bunye.

Of the several anti-terrorism bills pending in the Senate and House of Representatives, Malacañang has endorsed the versions authored by Sen. Robert Barbers and Cebu Rep. Joseph Durano.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez has said that without a "very strong" anti-terrorism law, the country would become a "soft target" for terrorists.

Rights groups have warned, however, that the proposed anti-terrorism bills could easily lead to abuse of authority by the police and military.

Leading women rights' groups, WomenLead, Gabriela and Isis Int'l-Manila said the definition of "terrorist acts" in these bills was so broad they could be easily abused by authorities to go after activist groups.

The Edsa 2 uprising last year that led to the ouster of President Joseph Estrada could be considered a terrorist act, based on the definition, they said.

WomenLead executive director Carol Ruiz-Austria said the definition of terrorism in Senate Bill 1458 authored by Sen. Panfilo Lacson "virtually covers all forms of actions critical to government policy."

The bill defines terrorism as "a strategy by which groups, unable to achieve power or to influence government policy through legitimate means, can coerce government, overturn established regimes and intimidate entire peoples."

"By this definition, even Edsa 2 could be considered a terrorist act," Ruiz-Austria said.

Under the bill, she added, authorities could treat activists as "terrorists."

Gabriela deputy secretary general Emmi de Jesus also protested House Bill 3802 filed by Ilocos Rep. Imee Marcos.

The bill defines terrorist acts as "acts of violence or threat intended to provoke a state of terror in the general public or a person or a group of persons for political purposes."

"Under this definition, any form of militant action is an act of terrorism," said De Jesus.

She added that all the proposed bills propose "draconian measures," such as a longer detention time for suspected terrorists.

She said this violated the basic legal principle of presumption of innocence.

At the same Cabinet meeting yesterday, the President ordered local government units to include terrorist attacks in their disaster preparedness.

Ms Macapagal said LGUs should be prepared to handle terrorist disasters like the bombing attack in Bali, Indonesia, last month.

She approved the recommendation of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, National Disaster Coordinating Council chair, local disaster coordinating councils (DCCs) to take charge of emergency response in such attacks.

Reyes said local chief executives should put up an area coordination center to direct the emergency operations.

He said the NDCC would take over only if a local government unit cannot handle the disaster.

With AFP

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS
PASAY CITY

ANNOUNCEMENT

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has submitted to the Commission on Appointments (C.A.) for confirmation the *ad interim* appointments of the following:

Edilberto C. De Jesus - Secretary, Department of Education
Karina C. David - Chairman, Civil Service Commission

The public may submit any information, written report or sworn complaints or oppositions in forty (40) copies on the above appointments to the CA Secretariat, 6th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila.

For the schedule of the public hearings, the CA Secretariat can be reached through telephone numbers 551-7532, 831-0893, 831-1824, 834-2706, 831-1566 and 834-2713

11 November 2002.

(Sgd.) ARTURO L. TIU
Secretary

Meeting of families organizer still upbeat

AN ORGANIZER of the world meeting of families here next year remains upbeat about the international event in the face of terrorist threats and recent bombings in the country.

Fr. Joselito Jopson, vice chair of the media committee of the Fourth World Meeting of Families (FWMF), says interest in the event here and abroad remains strong.

"Preparations are going full blast. We are unfazed by the situation," Jopson said.

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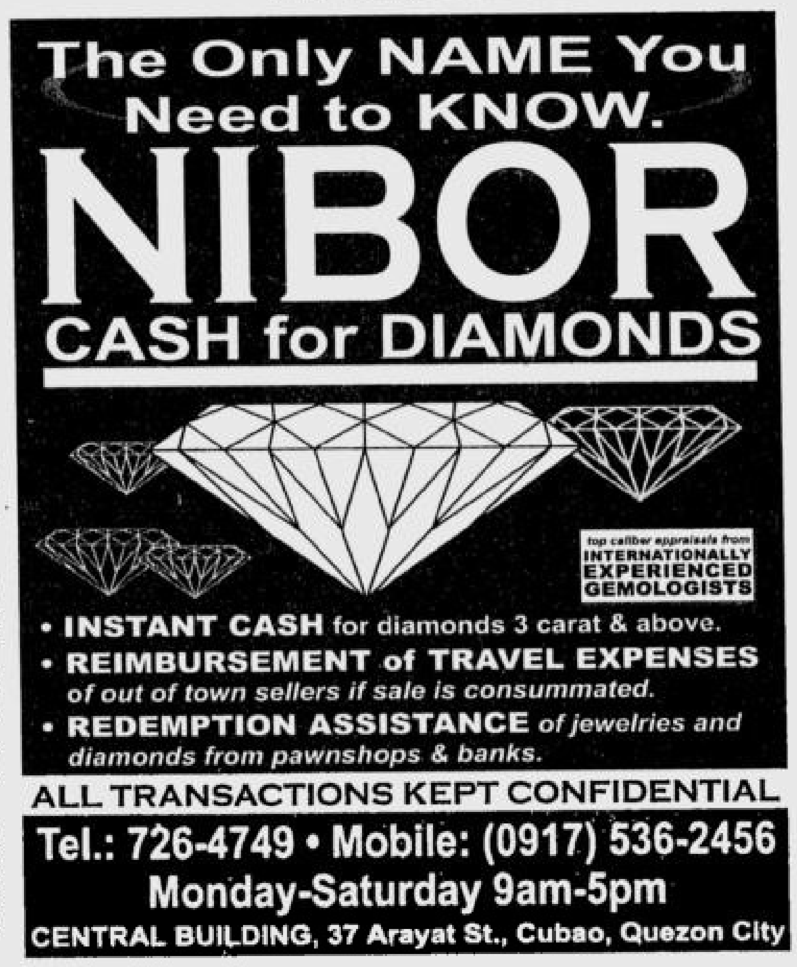
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Anti-terror experts give Terminal 3 high marks

By Norman Bordadora

FOREIGN security experts hired by the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) believe it would be virtually impossible for terrorists to use the Philippines' newest airport for their deadly activities.

British security consultant Andrew Bishop said many eyes and ears—both electronic and human—will be watching the activities inside and outside the new Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 at all times.

"What we have is a multi-layer security setup that employs the best of 21st-century technology. The equipment has been selected to work flawlessly and complement the human security detail," Bishop said.

Bishop works for the German firm Civas, an airport security and safety company with vast experience in Europe. He and two other Civas security experts, both Germans, undertook a study of security at Naia 3 in behalf of Piatco, builder and operator of the new terminal.

"Everything that is humanly possible has been done to make it very difficult for Osama bin Laden-wannabes to attack Naia 3," Bishop said. "Terrorists cannot just walk in here and expect to unload their deadly packages with ease."

Bishop said some 800 security personnel working in shifts would be needed to patrol the 1.1-kilometer airport terminal. But "the actual number would depend on the security firms that will provide the watchmen," he said.

Bishop and the two other experts, who were not identified, were also confident enough about the security at Naia 3 that well-wishers would be allowed freer movement inside the terminal.

"Unlike at Naia 1 and 2, where people movement is limited to make up for the bare-bones security system, persons who use Naia 3 will have freer movement because of our full confidence in the system," Bishop said.

"There will be overt and covert security details, bomb-sniffing dogs, numerous security cameras, sensors and sophisticated X-ray machines and metal detectors," he said.

For his part, Naia 3 general manager Guillermo Cunanan said travelers would quickly notice the steps taken by Piatco to deal with terrorists.

"Trained personnel will conduct random checks on vehicles entering Terminal 3, with profilers weeding out suspicious vehicles and occupants for more thorough checks," Cunanan said.

He said passenger luggage would pass through a minimum of two and as many as four X-ray machines on the second floor of the four-story airport complex.

Arriving and departing passengers will also pass through several metal detectors, Cunanan said.

Bishop said Naia 3's multi-stage security measures would address any kind of threat, and in the event of a top-level security threat, segments of the airport could be immediately closed to contain the problem.

"Just like in the UK train tunnel system, there are provisions to contain a problem in a systematic, highly organized and professional manner," Bishop said.

Naia 3 is scheduled for a soft opening on Dec. 15. Its construction has been attended by controversy and a quarrel between Piatco and its German partner Fraport AG.

BIN LADEN'S TERROR NETWORK

Jihad groups all over, says report

By TJ Burgonio

APART from the Jemaah Islamiah, there are many other "jihadist organizations" scattered around the world with links to the al-Qaida terror network of Osama bin Laden, according to a confidential intelligence report from the Philippine National Police obtained by the INQUIRER.

The JI, a Southeast Asian-based militant group widely believed to have ties with al-Qaida, has been accused of plotting to establish a pan-Islamic state across Southeast Asia, including southern Philippines.

The report alleged that Bin Laden had set up the International Islamic Front for Jihad on the Jews and the Crusaders in the late 1990s to carry out attacks against the Jews and the United States and their allies which are called "crusaders" and perceived to be anti-Islam.

The front is an alliance between the al-Qaida and jihadist organizations like the Gamaat Islamiah, the Egyptian Islamic Jihad, the Islamic Jihad of Bangladesh, the Pakistani Harakat Ul Anzar and the Jamiat I Ulama, the report said.

To carry out their global jihad, the al-Qaida and the alliance provided support for local jihadist organizations, especially those seeking to set up an independent Islamic state. The support came in the form of training, funds and weapons, the report said.

In return, select operatives of the local jihadist organizations like the JI, the Abu Sayyaf bandit group and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front were "co-opted" into the al-Qaida operational cells to carry out attacks against the US, Israel and their allies, the report claimed.

Support role

"Basically, the local jihadist performs a support role in the selection of specific targets in the country, collection of operational intelligence, and procurement of safehouses and materials," it said.

The Abu Sayyaf, which gained notoriety for abducting for ransom mostly foreign tourists in southern Philippines, and the MILF, which is seeking to establish an independent Islamic state in Mindanao, are suspected of having links with the al-Qaida.

The same report claimed that two alleged Malaysian leaders of the JI who have been charged for the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila, conducted a surveillance of US and Israeli interests in Manila before the bomb attacks.

The Dec. 30 bombings left more than 20 people dead and several others injured.

The Malaysians —Riduan Isamudin, alias Hambali, and Faiz Abu Bakar Bafana —conducted the surveillance on the US and Israeli embassies with the help of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and Mukhlis Yunos of the MILF, the report said.

It said this happened before Hambali placed Al-Ghozi in charge of the Dec. 30 bombing operation, it said.

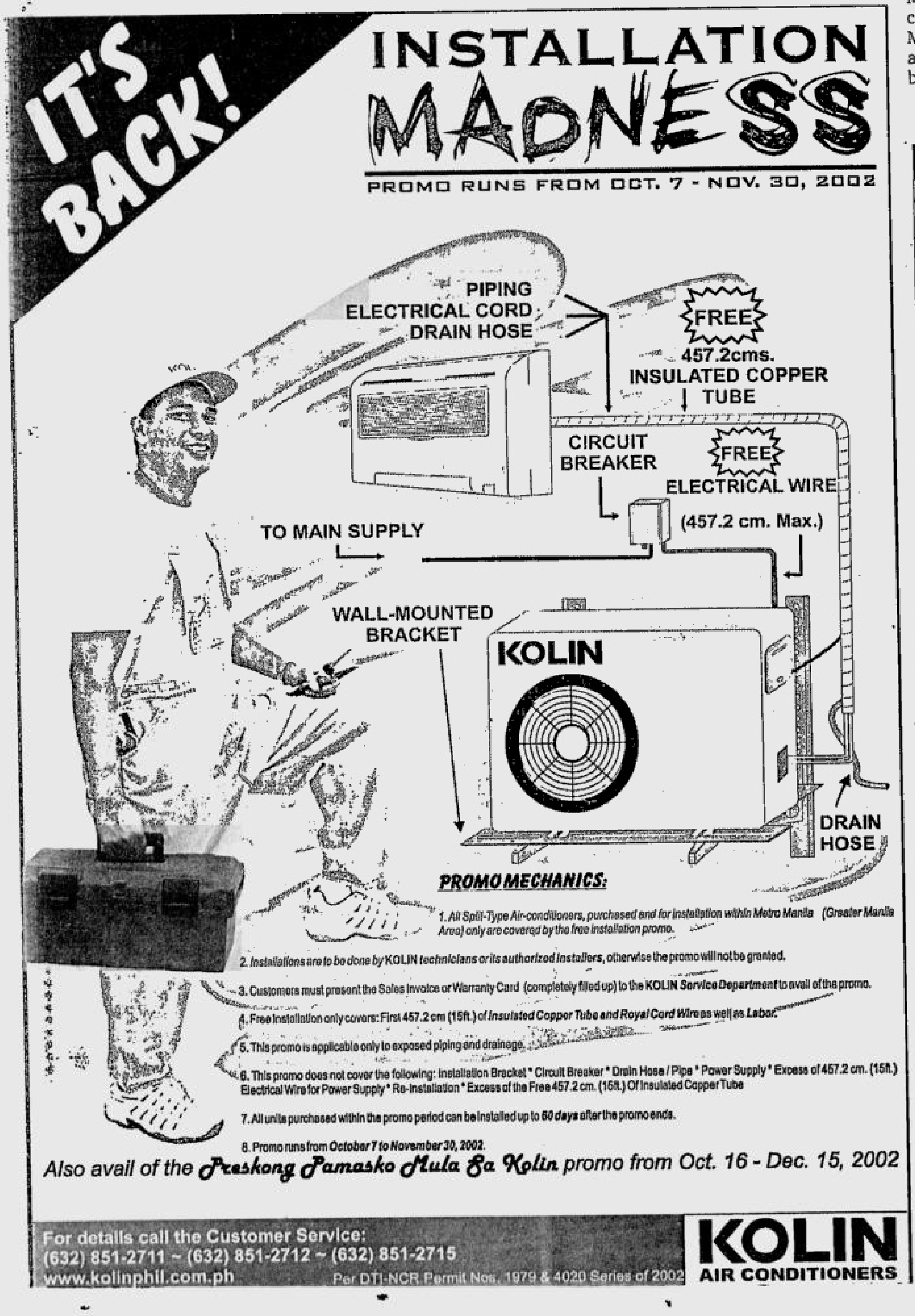
The Indonesian Al-Ghozi, who has confessed to being a JI member, has admitted having plotted the Dec. 30 bombings with Yunos, the former special operations chief of the MILF's 3rd Division, according to authorities.

The arrest of Al-Ghozi and the recovery of the explosives in his hideout in General Santos City led to a crackdown on suspected JI members in Singapore by the authorities.

Hambali, the alleged point man of al-Qaida in Southeast Asia, and Bafana, who was arrested along with several other JI members in Singapore in December, have been charged in connection with the seizure of 1.2 tons of explosives and firearms from Al-Ghozi's safehouse in General Santos City early this year.

JI operatives had planned to use the explosives to blow up US and Israeli interests in Singapore.

Al-Ghozi was arrested in Quiapo in January and has been charged and subsequently sentenced to 12 years in prison for possession of explosives.



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Defensor gets 10 more days

DEFENSOR

OUTGOING Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Benjamin Defensor would be getting an unexpected 10-day extension.

According to ranking government officials, the turnover of the post would probably take place on Nov. 28, not Nov. 18 as originally scheduled.

"This is due to the President's tight schedule," one of the sources said.

Asked to comment on the report, the military spokesperson retired Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion said that they have not yet received any official notice from Malacañang and that he does not know anything about it.

Defensor was supposed to turn over his post on Nov. 18 to Lt. Gen. Dionisio Santiago who was named 32nd AFP chief on Saturday by Ms Macapagal.

Defensor was supposed to occupy the post for 69 days as he took over on Sept. 10, two days before he was supposed to retire.

Yesterday, it was learned that it was expanded to 79 days because of the President's "tight schedule."

Defensor's assumption to the post was heavily criticized by some who pointed out that it was part of Malacañang's "revolving-door" policy on military chiefs.

Some have said that the short terms given to military chief ensures that they would be beholden to Malacañang and would have to follow Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes' bidding.

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Ex-chiefs hit COA revamp

By Volt Contreras

COMMISSION on Audit officials who fear they will suffer "dislocation" and a "reduced standard of living" under the ongoing reorganization of the agency have found allies in their former bosses.

Three former COA chairs and four former commissioners have written incumbent chair Guillermo Carague questioning the legality and "wisdom" of the revamp initiated last May.

These were ex-chairs Celso Gangan, Eufemio Domingo and Pascasio Banaria; and commissioners Sofronio Ursal, Bartolome Fernandez, Alberto Cruz and Hermogenes Pobre.

The six said they had banded together "impelled by queries" from COA personnel who are being affected by the reorganization, documents obtained by the INQUIRER yesterday showed.

In a letter to Carague last September, they cited, among others, the "lack of an enabling law" for COA Resolution 2002-005 which implemented the revamp started by Carague as early as August last year.

They found "no logic," for example, in changing the scope of the job of regional directors from a geographical grouping of government agencies to "clusters" of agencies whose offices may be scattered nationwide.

The directors affected could "suffer a reduced standard of living" as they would be pulled out of their regional stations and posted in Metro Manila, perhaps leaving their families behind, the letter said. It noted that "no additional benefits" were provided under the revamp scheme.

And since the resolution was merely an administrative action, future COA leaderhips "of a different disposition" could easily scrap it, the former COA officials said.

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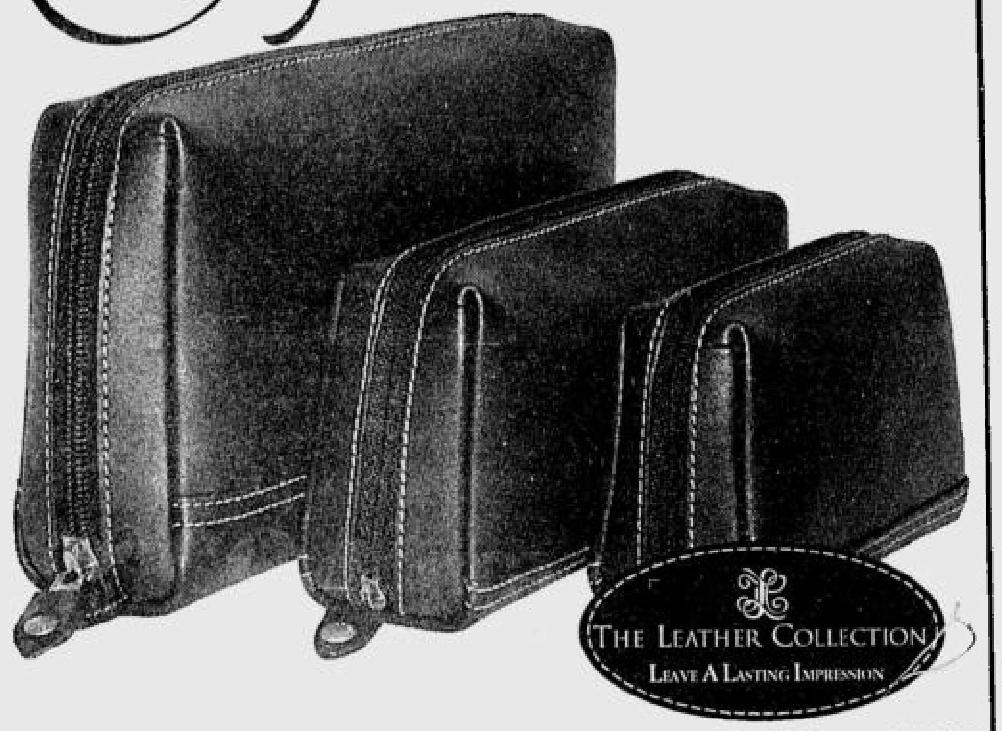

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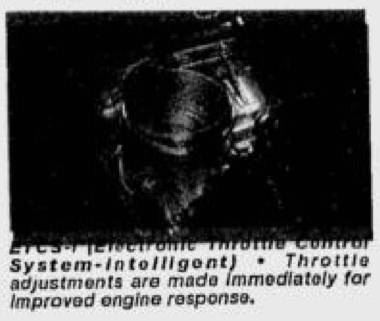

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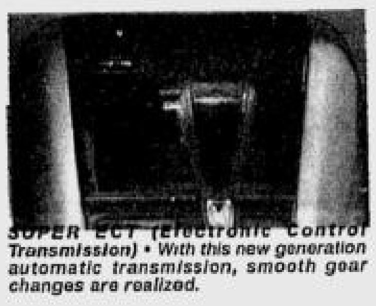

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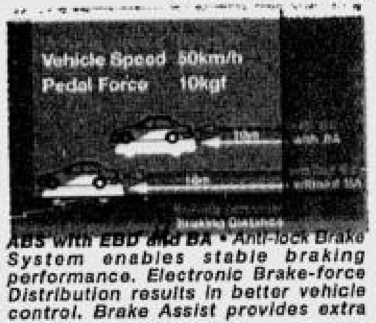

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TOYOTA

Pinoy expats also want to run

y Cynthia
. Balana

ÕME Filipino expa- iates in the United tates have ex- ressed their inten- on not only to par- cipate as absentee voters, but also to run for elective posts, in the 2004 general elections.

This was disclosed by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, who learned of the plan during a dialogue with Filipino groups in Los Angeles, California last week.

While they welcomed the approval of the absentee voting law by Congress, he said, the US-based Filipinos seemed to be more excited about the dual citizenship measure sponsored by Senate President Franklin Drilon.

In the Senate version of the proposed absentee voting law, permanent residents of the US and other countries can exercise their right to vote in elections for Philippine national officials. If the dual citizenship bill is enacted into law, Pimentel said, even Filipinos who have acquired foreign citizenships can do so.

"The right to vote carries with it the right to run for public office," the senator said. But, he added, aspirants to public office should comply with residency requirements.

Drilon further explained: those who have not acquired other citizenships and wished to run for elective positions here should meet the absentee voting law's residency requirement based on domicile.

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Hagedorn back as mayor of Puerto, high court rules

By Michael Lim Ubac

HAGEDORN

EDWARD Hagedorn is back as mayor of Puerto Princesa City.

The Supreme Court yesterday removed all legal obstacles for Hagedorn's assumption of the post for the fourth time.

In a surprise ruling, the high court voted 11-2 to lift the temporary restraining order it issued barring the proclamation of the winning candidate in the city's recall election on Sept. 24.

Hagedorn had garnered the highest number of votes—20,238. The incumbent Victorino Dennis Socrates and candidate Vicente Sandoval had 17,220 and 13,241 votes, respectively.

The ruling was a go-signal for the Commission on Elections to immediately proclaim Hagedorn as the winner, replacing Socrates, who was elected in May 2001.

Some 346 barangay leaders, councilmen and Sangguniang Kabataan chairs had signed the recall resolution in July this year, citing "loss of confidence."

Associate Justice Antonio Carpio penned the SC decision, which was concurred with by Associate Justices Josue Bellosillo, Jose Vitug, Artemio Panganiban, Consuelo Ynarez-Santiago, Reynato Puno, Vicente Mendoza, Leonardo Quisumbing, Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, Conchita Carpio-Morales and Romeo Callejo Sr.

Those who dissented were Chief Justice Hilario Davide and Adolfo Azcuna. Associate Justice Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez was on leave, while Associate Justice Renato Corona had abstained.

The SC dismissed three separate petitions filed by Socrates and Sandoval, which sought to reverse the Comelec resolutions that allowed the Sept. 24 election.

Issues raised in the petitions were: whether the Comelec committed "grave abuse of discretion" in giving due course to the recall election; whether Hagedorn, who was mayor for three consecutive terms, was qualified to run again; and whether Comelec committed grave abuse in fixing a campaign period of only 10 days.

The high tribunal ruled that the third issue had in fact been rendered moot much earlier. "Our resolution of Sept. 3, 2002 and Comelec Resolution No. 5708 granted an additional 15 days for the campaign period," it said.

In the first petition, Socrates claimed that the Preparatory Recall Assembly (PRA) members had no authority to adopt the recall resolution on July 2, 2002, or shortly before the last barangay polls on July 11.

"This argument deserves scant consideration," the SC said, "considering that when the PRA members adopted the resolution, their terms of office had not expired."

The high court added that it did not find "any valid reason to hold that the Comelec's findings of fact (regarding Socrates' claim) are patently erroneous."

As for Hagedorn's qualification for a new term, the SC said he did not violate the three-term limit rule prescribed by the Constitution and the Local Government Code.

"After three consecutive terms," the ruling explained, "an elective official cannot seek immediate reelection. The prohibited election refers to the next regular election for the same office following the end of the third consecutive term."

In Hagedorn's case, the SC said, the recall election was no longer covered by the prohibition.

No. 13 hounds Erap in trial

By Volt Contreras

IT SEEMS the number 13 just won't leave deposed ex-president Joseph Estrada alone.

Estrada, who is on trial for plunder, is known to be superstitious about the number which has figured prominently in his life.

Last Monday at his trial, his lawyers managed to prevent prosecution star witness Clarissa Ocampo from testifying when they prolonged their cross-examination of the witness before Ocampo.

Ocampo had jolted Estrada's impeachment trial at the Senate in 2001 when she told of sitting one foot away from the then president as he signed the name "Jose Velarde" to bank documents loaning P500 million to his friend, businessman William Gatchalian.

That alleged act by Estrada became one of the bases for the numerous criminal charges filed against him.

Because of the defense lawyers' dilatory tactics, Ocampo, a former Equitable-PCIBank executive, will likely take the stand today, Nov. 13, which also marks the second anniversary of Estrada's impeachment by the House of Representatives.

The latest incident involving Estrada's unlucky number did not escape Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo, who said yesterday the attempt to delay Ocampo's court appearance seemed to have "backfired."

"It was actually okay with me that her testimony was moved to Nov. 13," said Marcelo, who will question Ocampo for the prosecution when the trial at the Sandiganbayan resumes at 8:30 a.m. today.

Estrada, the Philippines' 13th president, was stripped of his chance to reclaim his office after the Supreme Court voted 13-0 to deny his challenge to the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration.

Ocampo was the 13th witness against Estrada at his aborted Senate impeachment trial. His friend who turned against him, former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, took the stand in that trial on Dec. 13, 2000.

The name "Joseph Estrada" has 13 letters; so do the names of people closest to him like his wife Luisa Pimentel, Panfilo Lacson, Ronaldo Zamora, Ernesto Maceda, and his two co-accused, Edward Serapio and Jaime Dichaves.

"Asiong Salonga," the name of the street toughie Estrada played in the movies and which endeared him to the masses, also has 13 letters. *With a report from Agnes E. Donato*

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NOTICE OF TEMPORARY WATER SERVICE CUT-OFF IN VALENZUELA, OBANDO AND MEYCAUAYAN THIS WEEKEND

Water service to all of Valenzuela and to the Obando and Meycauayan water districts will be temporarily cut for 24 hours this weekend, starting from 9 p.m., Saturday, November 16 to 9 p.m., Sunday, November 17.

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. said the water service interruption is to allow the installation of an additional gearbox at the existing actuator along Maysan Road, the physical investigation of a 900mm mainline also at Maysan and the interconnection of the newly installed and raised section of the 450mm mainline crossing the Tullahan River in Valenzuela.

The elevation of the 450mm mainline crossing the Tullahan River was undertaken by Maynilad in response to the request of Congressman Magtanggol Gunigundo of Valenzuela's second district. The raised section will now allow the passage of small seacraft underneath the Tullahan bridge.

The installation of the additional gearbox and the physical investigation at Maysan are expected to improve the water supply especially in the elevated areas of Valenzuela.

Affected areas are: the whole of Valenzuela and the areas being served by the Meycauayan and Obando Water Districts, which will have no water during the interruption.

Affected residents are advised to store water good for 24 hours. They may also call Maynilad Hotline 1626 for the water rationing schedule and water deliveries.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, November 13, 2002
32nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	**Tit 3:1-7**
Gospel:	**Lk 17:11-19**

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus was passing along the border between Samaria and Galilee, and as he entered a village, ten lepers came to meet him. Keeping their distance, they called to him, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" Then Jesus said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." Now, as they went their way, they found they were cured. One of them, as soon as he saw he was cleansed, turned back praising God in a loud voice, and throwing himself on his face before Jesus, he gave him thanks. This man was a Samaritan.

Then Jesus said, "Were not all ten healed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God but this alien?" And Jesus said to him, "Stand up and go your way; your faith has saved you."

Commentary

We could sum up this Gospel in three words: mercy, faith and gratitude. These are three key words in the life of a Christian. Mercy is one of the attitudes presented more often by the evangelists about Jesus. How many times was he moved to pity for the needy and the sick! Faith is the capacity to accept God's presence near us. Jesus often repeats that faith heals. And gratefulness is an answer from the heart for everything that has been freely received. Fruit of this gratefulness before God's gift is mercy and compassion, which Christians experience for their poor and needy brothers and sisters.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (CONSTITUTIONAL LAW)/REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Involuntary or coerced confessions—There are 2 kinds of involuntary or coerced confessions treated in Section 12 of Article III of the Constitution: (1) coerced confessions, the product of their degree methods such as torture, force, violence, threat and intimidation, which are dealt with in paragraph 2 of Section 12, and (2) uncounselled statements, given without the benefit of Miranda warnings, which are the subject of paragraph 1 of the same section. Accused-appellant argues that the oral confessions given should be deemed inadmissible for being violative of his constitutional rights as these were made by one already under custodial investigation to persons in authority without the presence of counsel. Accused-appellant cannot now claim that he was not apprised of the consequences of the statements he was to make as well as the written confessions he was to execute. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Per Curiam, People v. Vallejo, G. R. No. 144656, May 9, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

MAKING A POINT

'Masked' men invade House, score win for clean air

By Christine O. Avendaño

PROTESTERS wearing gas masks invaded the halls of the House of Representatives yesterday, prompting the chamber's leadership to suspend consideration of a controversial joint resolution of Congress that seeks to defer a crucial provision of the Clean Air Act (CAA).

The suspension means that the Clean Air Act will operate automatically on Jan. 1 next year, Speaker Jose de Venecia told the protesters—mostly students and non-govermental groups.

The protesters cheered at the announcement.

The Clean Air Act requires oil firms to start cleaning their gasoline effective January next year by reducing the levels of harmful substances such as benzene and aromatics there.

A joint resolution in Congress that emanated from the House had sought the deferment of the new gasoline specifications because it said the impending war in Iraq would cause "price shocks" of oil and thus will result in financial difficulties for the people.

House resolution No. 0021 had been approved on second reading without the benefit of a committee hearing, prompting the House minority and several groups to protest its approval.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla was elated over the suspension of the resolution's consideration in the House but he said he will oppose any new resolution that will see the automatic suspension of the CAA provision in the event of a war in Iraq.

Padilla said this seemed to be what De Venecia wanted when he told the students that the House would work on a new resolution saying that in case war erupts in Iraq, the CAA provision will be suspended.

Padilla said the leadership "relented" not only because of the pressure from the protesters but also because of threats by the minority that it would raise many questions on the resolution. This included the fact that De Venecia, one of the authors of the resolution, did not sign the resolution when it was filed.

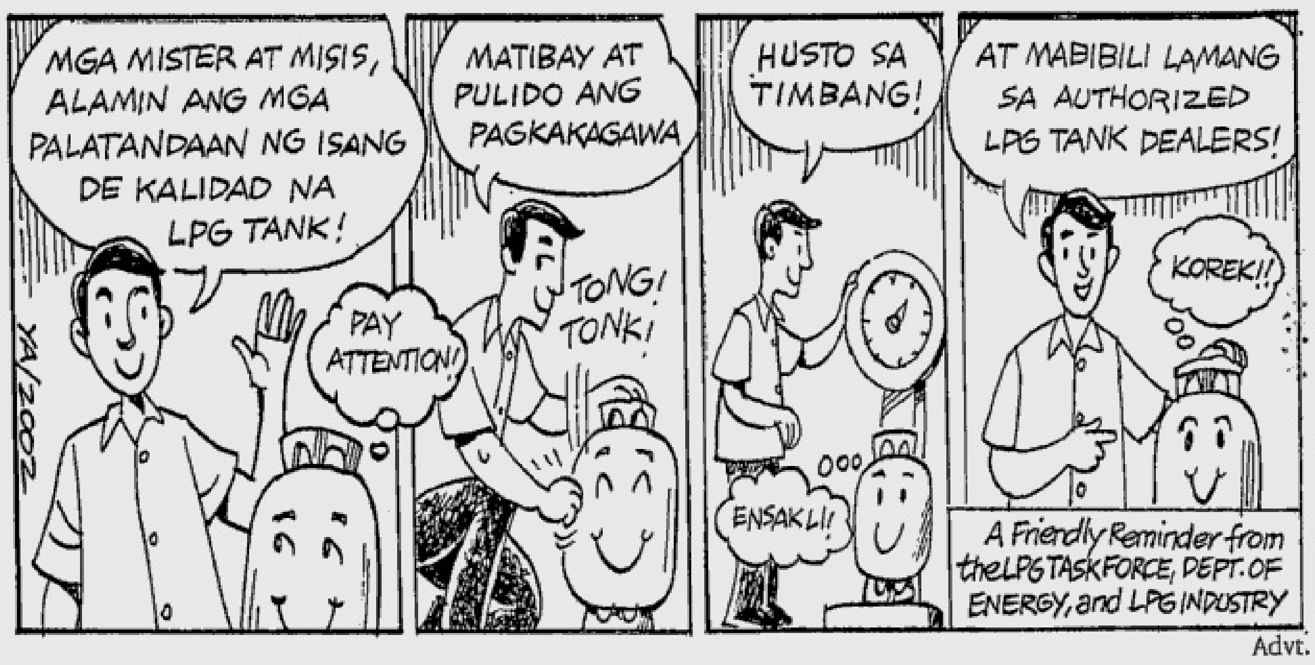
The change of heart of the leadership came after Makati Rep. Butz Aquino asked the plenary about the presence of people in the gallery wearing gas masks.

This prompted Bukidnon Rep. Nereus Acosta, main author of the Clean Air Act in the House, to stand up and make a clarification but Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales said Acosta could not do so because the question was not directed at him but to the leadership.

Gonzales then promptly suspended the session.

During the lull, NGOs led by the Concerened Citizens Against Air Pollution were seen seeking the signatures of congressmen for a letter to De Venecia which asked him to have the resolution undergo a committee hearing.

Misamis Oriental Rep. Augusto Baculio, chair of the House committee on ecology, was supposed to stand up and deliver a privilege speech asking that while the House leadership agreed to reconsider the resolution's approval on second reading, the latter only want interpellations on the resolution on the floor and not in any committee.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Goco was cited by the worldwide Celebration of Heroes Campaign for her lifetime achievements in "empowering marginalized sectors" and helping to alleviate poverty in the Philippines.

The award was presented by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Foundation on Nov. 11 in New York City.

Two others declared Global Heroes were Muhammed Yunus of Bangladesh, who received the Mahatma Gandhi Award for founding the Grameen Bank, and Steve Mariotti, who was named "Community Hero of New York City" for establishing the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurs.

Tesorero, 79

MRS. Priscilla Rondez-Tesorero of Davao City, widow of Adriano Tesorero Sr., died on Saturday, Nov. 9. She was 79.

She is survived by children Alice, Armando and Selma, Angelito and Marilou, Alfredo and Neri, Adelfa and Senen, Arny and Robert, Adriano Jr. and Emma, Alma Ursula, and April Ardea and Danny; and grandchildren.

Mama Precilla's remains lie in her residence at Summer Wind 3 Village in Salitran, Dasmariñas Cavite. She will be buried today at 11 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque.

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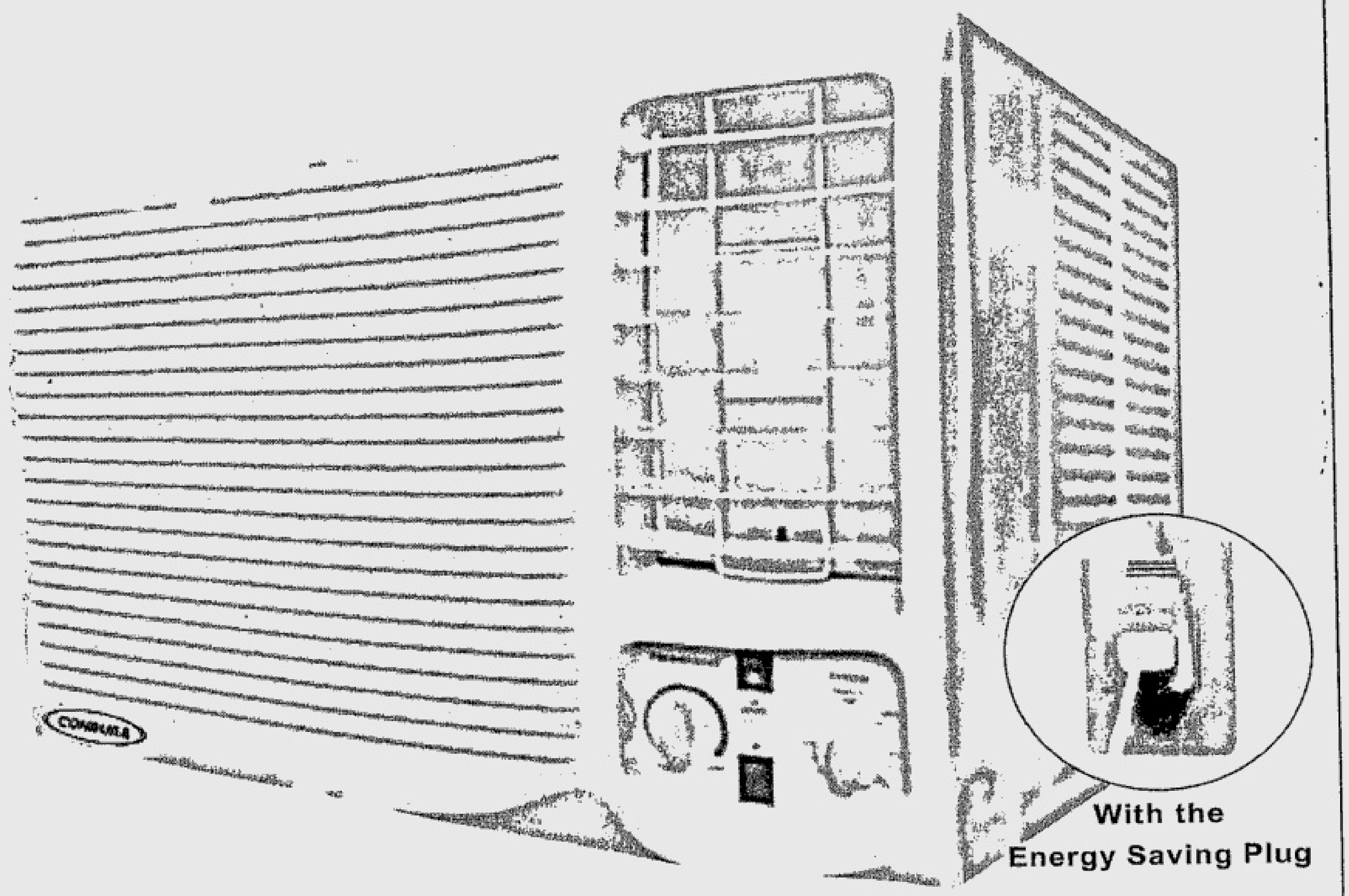

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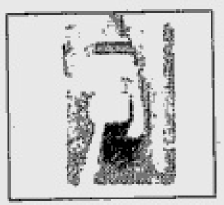

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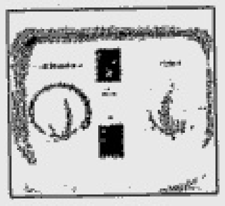

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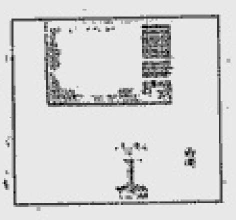

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OPINION

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Blaming heaven

EDITORIAL

TO ABSOLVE the living, just blame the dead. This was the rule followed by everyone in past air tragedies, from airline owners to air transport regulators. Thus, as soon as disaster struck, "pilot error" was almost always blamed for it, a conclusion that subsequent official investigations never seemed to alter or modify.

But who can they blame if by some miracle the pilot or pilots survive, like what happened in the latest air accident when a Fokker 27 plunged into Manila Bay last Monday? In that early morning crash of Flight 585 bound for Laoag City and Basco, Batanes, 18 persons perished, one remained missing as of yesterday, and 15 survived, including the pilot and the co-pilot, leaving no convenient scapegoat to pin the blame on. No terrorists were aboard and sabotage has been ruled out, since there was no explosion before the crash. Finding no human hand behind the tragedy, transport officials now see it as an act of God.

At least that was what Adelberto Yap, chief of the Air Transport Office, appeared to be suggesting. Yap told reporters Monday he knew that Laoag International Airlines (LIA), which owned the ill-fated aircraft, conducted "regular maintenance checks before any of their planes leave the ground." He added that the ATO also did similar maintenance checks "to ensure the safety of the passengers."

But if the airline and the ATO really did their job well, how come 18 people are dead? The plane was not hit by a bolt of lightning. Steve Thompson, an Australian who was among the surviving passengers, said the plane was in the air for just about three minutes when he noticed that its engine "got quiet." Then he saw smoke coming out of the left engine, and he felt the plane bank. Moments later they were already in the water.

If Thompson was right, the Fokker's two engines must have conked out almost at the same time, with one of them apparently catching fire. What kind of maintenance checks did the aircraft undergo to produce such a deadly outcome? If this is the product of the ATO's efforts to ensure the safety of air passengers, then the fear of flying that afflicts a lot of people has more than just a psychological basis.

Yap, in fact, cannot assure passengers that it's safe to fly. If engine trouble was the cause of the crash, he said, then it could not have been predicted.

It's a scary thought, but it is obviously intended to exonerate not only his own office but also the airline of any culpability for the tragedy. So why has Yap been ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo to investigate the cause of the crash?

Several lawmakers have asked why the airline was allowed to continue operating despite its past record of accidents and violations of air safety regulations. LIA airplanes were involved in three other accidents in recent years, they said.

There is also the question of why a 40-year-old aircraft was being allowed to fly regularly. This Fokker, in particular, was said to have been acquired by the Philippine Air Force in 1960 and later sold to the Indonesian Air Force. Then it was bought by the government of New Zealand which grounded it on account of its doubtful airworthiness, before it was bought by LIA. So who certified that the aircraft was fit to be used as a passenger plane?

Trying to justify the Fokker's operation after four decades, Yap said, "No aircraft is too old if it is maintained properly." In other words, metal fatigue or even ordinary wear and tear, which has been blamed for some accidents, is nothing more than a harmless myth.

After clearing the airline and the aircraft, what is there left for Yap to investigate?

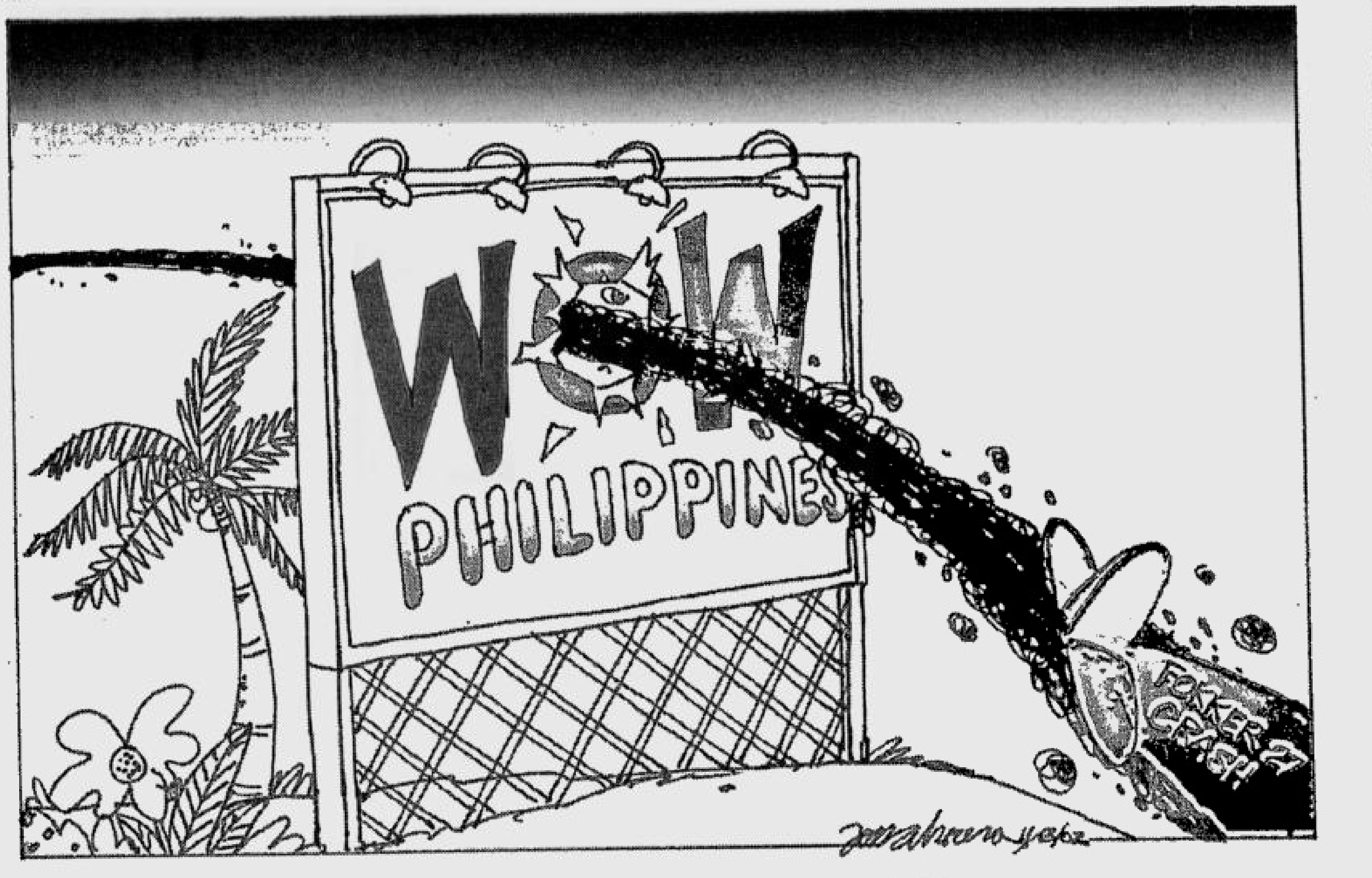
Greater evil

FOREIGN COMMENT

ZAP! Pow! The bad guys are dead. And they never knew what hit them. Living his presidency like Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan, George Bush etched another notch in his gun butt this week, blowing away six "terrorists" in Yemen's desert. Their car was incinerated by a Hellfire missile, fired by a CIA unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) or drone. Dealing out death via remote-controlled flying robots could be the spooks' salvation after the Sept. 11 and Afghan intelligence flops. It makes the agency look useful. ...

Stateless gangster terrorism is a fearsome scourge. But state-sponsored terrorism is a greater evil, for it is waged by those who should know better, who are duty-bound to address causes not mere symptoms, who may claim to act in the people's name. As Alexander Herzen said in another age of struggle: "We are not the doctors. We are the disease."

The Guardian (London)



Israeli ministers toe red lines

NEWS ANALYSIS

Christine Hauser

JERUSALEM—The Israeli government's lurch to the right with the appointment of two hard-line ministers last week set off alarms that the cycle of attacks and retaliation in a conflict with the Palestinians will only get worse.

But the prospect of Israeli elections and a US war on Iraq could restrain Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz from taking current military policy toward the Palestinians beyond that of their center-left predecessors.

At least, that is, for the short term, analysts said on Monday.

Netanyahu is challenging Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for leadership of the rightist Likud Party in Nov. 28 primaries, ahead of a general election on Jan. 28.

While Netanyahu, prime minister from 1996 to 1999, will want to present a get-tough approach to the conflict in which hundreds of Israelis have been killed, Sharon is not likely to let his subordinate outmaneuver him.

"Israeli behavior toward the Palestinians will be based on two criteria: the leadership battle in Likud and impending (general) elections," said political analyst Reuven Hazan.

"Netanyahu is trying to outflank Sharon on the right and will push either the general cabinet or the security cabinet on a much harsher line. Sharon will try to oppose it because he is running as the moderate candidate.

"But all of this is only good for another two-and-a-half weeks," he said, referring to the Likud election.

Shortly after he came in from the political sidelines and accepted Sharon's offer to become foreign minister last week, Netanyahu made clear he would make security a main campaign theme.

On Monday, after a Palestinian gunman killed five Israelis, including a mother and her two children, Netanyahu made his most scathing remarks about Arafat's leadership since being sworn in.

He told Army Radio he had been calling for some time for "the expulsion of Arafat's terror regime" and that Israel "would find the proper time to do so." But he said such action depended on "international developments," an apparent reference to a possible US war on Iraq and Washington's desire for Israel to avoid action that could hurt efforts to draw Arab support for the campaign.

Netanyahu and Mofaz, until recently Israel's army chief, were appointed after Sharon's coalition collapsed with the departure of the center-left Labor Party over government funding for Jewish settlements on occupied land.

With Labor as his partner, Sharon responded to Palestinian suicide bombings by reoccupying West Bank cities, besieging Arafat's offices and killing militants in attacks Palestinians describe as assassinations.

Palestinians were afraid the additions of Netanyahu and Mofaz—who as Israel's top military man was once caught on microphone advising Sharon to expel Arafat—meant the worst was to come, especially if Likud won big in the coming election.

Until now, the Israeli army has not crossed two red lines: banishing Arafat and fully reoccupying the teeming Gaza Strip, an operation which Israeli generals fear would bring heavy Israeli casualties.

And although it destroyed much of Arafat's Ramallah compound in response to Palestinian attacks, it bent to Washington's will and left him in place and physically unscathed.

Sharon has said he has promised US President George W. Bush not to harm Arafat.

Hazan said he saw Netanyahu's talk of removing Arafat as mostly rhetoric, reined in by Sharon. "Sharon says: I am the boss. His (Sharon's) stated goals are to keep a relationship with the United States and to foster national consensus." But Ali Jarbawi, a Palestinian political analyst, said he saw few restraints on the current Israeli cabinet.

"The government is an interim government. It doesn't have any brakes on it, because it is going into elections," he said.

He said that it was likely that Israel would feel it could act with a freer hand once any campaign on Iraq was under way because of diverted world attention. "After the first strike in Iraq this government has carte blanche to do what it pleases." Gerald Steinberg, an Israeli commentator, said the caretaker government was unlikely to make any radical moves toward the Palestinians.

"The fact that Netanyahu is foreign minister is probably not going to make any difference. The competition will end in a couple of weeks, and Sharon as the prime minister has chosen a careful path working closely with the United States." At least 1,653 Palestinians and 631 Israelis have been killed since a Palestinian uprising for statehood erupted in September 2000.

Reuters

Classrooms

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I AM glad the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has thrown its support behind the People Power Foundation's "Adopt a School Program." Its financial, organizational and moral clout should go a long way toward giving that program the boost it so richly deserves. I just have a few reservations about the way, well, one bishop at least has phrased the terms of the CBCP's support for it.

I agree wholeheartedly with Hernando Coronel, CBCP executive secretary, when he says the adopt-a-school program "is a step in the right direction...helping the disadvantaged in society, the rural poor and even the tribal minorities." Indeed, when he says further, "For poor children, education is their only way out of poverty" and education "is a long-term approach in resolving poverty." I've argued the same thing myself, with the only caveat that private-sector initiatives may not render superfluous, or take the place of, government's obligation to do its job, which is make education truly universal.

But I do not agree as wholeheartedly with Socrates Villegas when he says: "Let us move people power from the streets to the classroom. The new task of people power is the promotion of progress through education."

My first reason for disagreeing with this is that the task of education is not just bringing the kids to the classrooms, it is also, and probably more importantly, bringing the classrooms to the kids.

To begin with, the problem is not just bringing the kids to the classrooms, it is keeping them there. The enrolment rate for Grade 1 in public schools is fairly high. The problem, however, is that they do not stay long enough in school to be sufficiently enlightened. Many drop out after a couple of years for various reasons, chief of them the need to eke out a living to help their impoverished families. As studies show, those who do so lapse back to illiteracy and innumeracy. That is something I hope the adopt-a-school program can help remedy, by making sure the dropout rates are kept to a minimum.

Beyond this, the problem is how to provide classrooms for a burgeoning population. Two obvious solutions to this are family planning and a bigger budget for education. I cannot see why the second cannot be done more or less immediately. We can, and should, make education and not the payment of debts our No. 1 priority, and we can, and should, reduce the Intelligence budget to zero and the PNP budget to minus one peso. But there are limits to how far you can go even with this.

The other solution is that if the mountain cannot go to Mohammad, Mohammad must go to the mountain. If the kids cannot go to the classrooms, the classrooms must go to the kids. I am not talking here only of outreach programs for schools, though that is an important component of it. I am certainly all for it, and would like to see both public and private sectors put more time and resources to it.

But beyond this, we can always explore the educational possibilities offered elsewhere, chief of them by the mass media. I applaud in this respect the Knowledge Channel, which has been valiantly attempting to turn living rooms into classrooms, despite the formidable competition of silly local entertainment fare and cable movies. And despite the fact that it seems directed at middle-class kids who have a working knowledge of English. It can always be made better. Or better still, it can always be made more plentiful. The point here is simply that the classroom does not have to be limited to the physical one.

Which brings me to my second ground for disagreeing with Villegas' views. I suspect it is a continuation of his views on Edsa, or particularly the so-called "Edsa III," which he regarded as a defilement of the Edsa Shrine. His current statement would suggest that the classroom and the street are at least incompatible, and at most antithetical. That is not true at all.

I remember writing a column some time ago, expressing that same disagreement with a Singaporean who said Singaporeans who stayed in classrooms were more highly educated than Filipinos who took to the streets. I said they were more highly skilled, which was important for getting a living, but they were less politically educated, which was important for living a life. The two were not oil and water, they were hand and glove. The education you got from "Edsa" (literally the streets!) was as vital as the one you got from classrooms. The one was not inferior to the other. Or less necessary.

A variation on that theme is the caveat I made on Terill Hill's, the Unicef representative to the Philippines, remark that he hoped to see a poor kid from the Mt. Province become president of this country some day. Hill said that after being impressed with the way several kids there pursued their schooling despite the many obstacles life had put in their way. I said the problem has never been that poor kids do not become presidents of this country, the problem is that they stop being poor after they become president while their country remains so. The latter kind of education, I said in that column, you do not find in classrooms.

You find it in fact in the "streets," or the kind associated with people power. The equation is not, "Let us move people power from the streets to the classroom." It is: "Let us bring people power to the classrooms as much as to the streets." The equation is not, "The new task of people power is the promotion of progress through education." It is: "The task of people power, then and now, is to promote the liberation of the mind as much as the body. It is to educate the Filipino, in every way he can be."

One thing about education: None of us is ever too old to have it.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Those travel advisories

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE INTERNATIONAL Herald Tribune reports from Jakarta about a conflict between the US State Department and some American ambassadors posted in Southeast Asia, over the issuance of advisories warning US citizens against traveling to countries hit by or facing possible terrorist attacks.

According to the report, US ambassadors in Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand asked the State Department to exempt these three countries because there was little risk of terrorism in these countries. Nonetheless, the State Department overruled the ambassadors and issued travel advisories for 11 Asian countries. Indonesia and the Philippines are two of those countries, following terrorist attacks in Zamboanga City and in Bali, Indonesia, where most of the more than a hundred fatalities were Australians. Advisories have been issued by the US, European and Australian governments, especially the latter after the Bali attack.

Given the state of law and order in the Philippines, this country is on the perennial list of forbidden areas, even if the warnings are over kidnap for ransom or terrorist attacks. The Philippine tourism department and the Department of Foreign Affairs have protested against these advisories, saying that these warnings have shot down tourist traffic, only to be rebuffed by the argument that the blame lies in the host country rather than on the advisories.

Tourism officials say that tourists need not worry about terrorist incidents because the attacks take place in selected localities and are not prevalent all over the country. This may be true, but when newspapers and TV report of, for example, an Abu Sayyaf hostage-taking or attack, foreigners don't go out of their way to look for maps and pinpoint the scene of attacks. To them, the attack took place in the Philippines and with that the country is scratched off the list of holiday destinations.

The IHT report, however, points out the double standard involved in the issuance of travel advisories. The report acknowledged that, indeed, al-Qaida does have a network in Southeast Asia, and new attacks loom, but then such attacks "are likely in other parts of the world as well."

One European ambassador in Asia was quoted as saying, "I'll tell you a secret. There are cells in the United States and there are cells in Europe, and there are cells in Southeast Asia." The diplomat asked, "Why was the travel warning only for the Third World countries of Asia?" The report further said that another European ambassador noted that after the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, no European government advised its citizens not to travel to the United States.

The report points out that several of the hijackers "lived and plotted in Hamburg, yet no one has issued a travel warning against going" to Germany. "Far from warning people to stay away after the Sept. 11 attacks," says the report, "America's leaders encouraged Americans to travel to New York, to support tourism and show patriotic solidarity, and many world leaders did just that."

The report cites counter-terrorism experts' opinion that the warnings play into the terrorists' hands by creating panic, which is what the terrorists want. Thus, the warnings wreak havoc on the tourism industry, which is a big foreign exchange earner in such countries as Thailand and previously in Indonesia, prior to the Bali attack.

Advisories underscore the tendency of First World countries to close ranks in using terrorism as a reason to promote their own tourism while discouraging their nationals from traveling to Third World countries vulnerable to terrorist attacks. In the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks in New York, both First World and Third World countries were equally at risk from these attacks. Both their tourist industries were affected, but in the battle for survival, Western countries have to save their own skins first, so they invoke patriotism to shore up their tourism industries and they damn tourism in vulnerable Asian countries.

* * *

Dante Ang, "publicist" for President Macapagal-Arroyo, has announced his resignation as senior presidential consultant for public relations. The reason given is that he wanted to devote full time strengthening the President's minuscule party, Kampi. The resignation is not cutting clean from an awkward position which has generated public perception that he is using his closeness to the President to promote personal gain. Even without an official title, Ang is still associated with the President as a party functionary. He has just transferred his venue from the Palace to the party. He still stays in the twilight zone—an area where he has even less accountability than when he was presidential consultant. Curiously, the President has not said a word about Ang's acquisition of assets. No one can deny Ang the right to make money as a private citizen or to bail out distressed banks as a "public service," but as a party mate of the President, the dividing line between Ang's business interests and the President's party interests is blurred.

Children and magic

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I HAVE but one piece of advice to everyone expected to troop to theaters today for the opening of "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," the second installment of what promises to be an even more profitable cinema franchise than "Star Wars." When the movie's over, and the credits start scrolling, don't get up and leave. Instead, sit through the rather lengthy credits for at the end there's a surprise that'll make the extra minutes worthwhile.

That's what my daughter insisted we do during the preview last Sunday, and the few stragglers left inside the theater were amply rewarded. She got the tip from the Harry Potter website, which she's been visiting since the first previews began turning up in theaters.

The "Harry Potter" phenomenon—four books and a fifth one on its way—has been hailed by the adult "muggle" world for getting today's children, who supposedly have abandoned the written word, reading again. But what makes the boy wizard and his friends at Hogwarts even more amazing is that even when they cross over to other media—movies and websites and electronic games, for instance—their appeal remains enormous and accessible.

They're real crossover artists. The books and the movies appeal not just to juvenile readers and pre-teen viewers, but even to teenagers and adults. I brought my children and their cousins, most of them in their early 20s, to Sunday's preview. And not once, during the movie or dinner afterwards, did we hear anyone utter a single derogatory, cynical remark.

That, for me, is Harry Potter's magic at work.

* * *

OVERHEARD at dinner: "This is one of the few movies where the sequel is better than the original."

I can't quite concede that point, since the first film, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," had the advantage of introducing to the movie-going public the boy wizard's magical world. Nothing could quite compare with beholding with one's eyes for the very first time the lofty towers of Hogwarts, the amazing complexity of Quiddich, and the characters one had only previously conjured in one's imagination.

But in many ways, "Chamber of Secrets" is the better film. Having dispensed with Harry Potter's back story, and with the need to explain the fascinating details of the magical world, the movie is able to get down to business in no time. This time, the three young leads—Daniel Radcliffe (Harry), Rupert Grint (Ron Weasley) and Emma Watson (Hermione Granger) spend much more time onscreen, pursuing the mysterious series of mishaps that bedevil Hogwarts with zeal and clever deduction. The pacing is much livelier, and the special effects accomplished with far more polish.

There is just one regretful note, though, and that concerns the three young leads. Clearly, they're leaving their childhood behind. Radcliffe and Grint's voices have broken, and Watson has obviously lost weight and with it the softness of young girlhood. In an interview, J.K. Rowling expressed a desire to see the three leads "age" naturally through all seven (her self-imposed limit) movie adaptations. But I don't know. Are we ready to see a teenage Harry Potter? Must even lovable boy wizards turn into surly adolescents?

* * *

SPEAKING of youth and magic, the National Music Competitions for Young Artists (NAMCYA) will be holding the culmination of this year's competitions from Nov. 25 to Dec. 1 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

More than 2,000 young artists from around the country have taken part in the competitions at the provincial and regional levels. About a thousand regional winners will be competing for the national awards, including vocal soloists, string soloists (violin, viola, cello, bass and guitar), youth and college choirs, high school rondalla and traditional instrumentalists, singers and dancers.

"This is perhaps the nation's broadest-reaching, single artistic event that involves thousands of participants from every region of the country," said Dr. Verne dela Peña, a professor at the UP College of Music and secretary general of NAMCYA. Created 29 years ago by presidential decree, the NAMCYA has a two-fold mission of discovering and developing young musical artists.

* * *

THEME of this year's competition is "Deo Gratias, Salamat sa Musika," in remembrance of Maestro Lucio San Pedro, National Artist for Music, who signed each of his compositions with "Deo Gratias." In further tribute to Maestro Lucio, most of this year's selection of contest pieces were either composed or arranged by him.

But, says Dela Peña, they also want to say "Deo Gratias" for the gift of music and for the country's young musicians who keep our musical legacy alive and vibrant. "I want to say thank you to all the young musicians we encounter each year," said Dela Peña. "I want to say thank you to the youth choir from Lamitan, Basilan, and to the more than 200 artists from the Cordilleras who will not only be competing but also sharing their wonderful culture with us." The competitions, he said, are just an "excuse" to gather the community of young musicians. More than anything else, NAMCYA is a "gathering and fellowship of musicians."

One problem that NAMCYA has yet to encounter is a lack of competitors. Indeed, each year the competitions face an embarrassment of potential winners. And as if to prove how rich our country is in musical talent, the organizers asked three young winners to beguile us with some numbers: John Raymond Sarreal, 16, on the flute; Alexis Edralin, voice; and Regina Buenaventura, 14, on the violin. Thank you for breaking the tedium of a workday with your art and artistry.

Seeing the differences in Simunul

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

THIS column should have appeared last Friday but I was unable to transmit it to the INQUIRER from Simunul, Tawi-tawi. I should really invest on a laptop that can connect to a cell phone to get my columns in from anywhere in the world. But then even that would not help last week as Globe had no signal in Tawi-tawi. Last Thursday I was in Simunul island off Bongao, Tawi-tawi to attend the 622nd anniversary of the coming of Islam to the Philippines. The place boasts of what is reputedly, the oldest mosque in the Philippines, built by Shiekh Karimul Makhdum either in 1376 or 1380, depending on who you are talking to or what book you are reading. Before my departure, friends called and texted, all insisting that I cancel, postpone or simply send a representative to Tawi-tawi. For people in Manila, a trip down South is a great risk, but I was assured that there would be little or no violence in Mindanao during Ramadan. The trouble spot I was told was Jolo (which rhymes with *magulo*), not Tawi-tawi.

Now that I have returned to Manila in one piece (to the great disappointment of my critics), I am witness to the quiet beauty of Tawi-tawi. White sand beaches, clear water, dolphins prancing about near the pier. This was "Survivor" paradise. There couldn't have been a more peaceful place. Simunul does not even have a municipal jail. It was a place for a vacation, not work. The hospitality I received on this short trip made me reflect on the Muslim-Christian tension in Southern Philippines. Looking at our history one can sense that the problem does not spring from a difference in religion—Islam and Christianity trace their common roots back to Abraham. The conflict cannot be blamed on ethno-linguistic or cultural issues because all Filipinos, both Muslim and Christian, share the same Malay heritage and cultural mix. Perhaps the concern friends in Manila had for my safety was but a symptom of the real problem in Muslim Mindanao—that of perception. Christian Filipinos often perceive Muslims as enemies, and I guess the same is true the other way around. In the wake of 9/11, all Muslims are unfairly associated with terrorism. We didn't need 9/11 because Muslim and Christian Filipinos are separated by a long history of violence, centuries of misunderstanding, that spring from different readings of a shared history. One of the ways to bridge the gap is for all of us to return to the past—to know, to appreciate and understand the Islamic heritage of the Philippines.

Tracing my route from Manila to Zamboanga, to Bongao, Tawi-tawi and finally to Simunul on a map, made me realize I had literally been to the southernmost tip of the Philippines. From here it was but a few hours by speedboat to Sandakan. Everything seemed different in this corner of the Philippines. Being in Tawi-tawi made me feel like a foreigner in my own country—actually our country. Some examples: in the Zamboanga airport I went to the rest rooms and saw the international symbol for male and female on the doors yet the text read "*hombre*" and "*mujer*." Though I knew they spoke Chabacano in Zamboanga, it was still an experience to encounter Spanish words in a place half a world away from Spain, Mexico or Latin America. Another example are the rosaries hung on the rear view mirrors of cars. These are not advertisements of one's faith, these are *anting-anting* to protect car and its passengers from accidents. I see these in Manila all the time but in Tawi-tawi the rosaries had a tassel at the end instead of a crucifix. The FX ride is the same anywhere but the rosaries and the music—it sounded like music for belly-dancing—were clear indications that I was a fish out of water.

In lowland Christian Luzon and Visayas most important buildings are government and church buildings. In Tawi-tawi the most prominent structures were mosques topped with onion-shaped domes. Even street names, which change so quickly in Metro Manila, were clear indication of a different history and world view. I live in Makati where the villages are named after Spaniards in our colonial history: Magallanes, Salcedo, Urdaneta. Dasmariñas. The premiere subdivision, Forbes Park, is named after an American colonial governor. All that is obviously "colonial mentality" at its best. In Bongao they have streets named Medina Drive and Tripoli Drive that allude to a different history. These small examples emphasized that I was a tourist in my own country. Looking at men in sarongs, others with the headdress made popular by Arafat and Robin Padilla, I wondered why I was taught this slogan in school—*Isang bansa isang diwa*. How can people so different be in one country? One people? Maybe a study of history in our schools should first make us accept and understand our differences rather than try and make us what Benedict Anderson calls an "imagined community."

So much for philosophical reflections that are better left to Conrad de Quiros, Randy David and Amando Doronila. Lets go back to history. What was being commemorated last week was the arrival of Sheikh Karimul Makhdum in 1380 and his building a mosque in Tubig Indangan, Simunul, Tawi-tawi. Things were not as simple as it seemed.

(Conclusion on Friday)

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

'Pretty woman'

HIGH BLOOD

George Loftus

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

AT AGE 59 I was no longer as handsome as Richard Gere and certainly not as rich. Sweet Valeriana, my bride-to-be, was not as tall as Julia Roberts, though she was very pretty. Do you remember the last scene in the movie "Pretty Woman"? It's the one where Richard climbs up the building to get Julia. Well, in this case I was walking down the Makati railroad tracks to the place of my intended mate. One day, off the plane from California, I was following Annie along the tracks through the smoke of cooking fires, amid half-clad children and also chickens clucking and darting about. Now Annie's squatter neighbors were waiting and they sent up a big cheer for Annie that she had found a new home. It was emotional. I could tell she was a real favorite here as we handed out sweets and small gifts. Soon the porters bundled up Annie's few things from her very tiny space: rice cooker, boom box with love songs (Michael Bolton, Kenny Rogers, Celine Dion), her cross-stitch pictures of angels and she took down the pin-ups of Princess Diana that I had sent her from America.

Now we were flying Asian Spirit Airlines to Samar to retrieve her daughter. This was Annie's first plane ride and she was bouncing in the seat beside herself with excitement: "The clouds! Look! Honey, the clouds are down there!" She pointed so I would be sure to see them. Billowing cumulus clouds were flowing below us now; my fiancée was amazed like a kid as we banked around Mayon Volcano then leveled and nosed forward toward the blue-green vistas of Samar.

We had agreed to get married, sight unseen, and we had only two weeks to prepare our wedding. Dolly and Annie would now be reunited after occasional separations over 12 years. We had plans to build our home in Mindanao on Annie's ancestral land. It was a challenging dream but we were taking it on.

Annie's black eyes sparkled as we circled Catarman Field. Over the heavy throbbing of the prop-jet, she sang a Babyface tune: "I believe I can fly/I believe I can touch the sky/I believe I can soar/See me running through an open door...." How I trusted this woman's judgment! "Honey, this is your life now; you do what you want," I told her. It had been more than four years since we met as pen-pals; my wife is a good manager and things are still going swimmingly. We are just middle class but we have a household of six (nieces and nephews) and I am slowly learning Filipino. But what I would like to talk about now is attitude, the attitude of belief.

In August 1998 I replied to Valeriana's first letter and I told her that she was too young. I asked for correspondents who were 32 or older, and she was only 29. I told several others the same thing and thanked them for writing. But in September 1998 she wrote back. Guess what? She now accused me of discrimination! (Heavens to Betsy!) Numbers are only arbitrary, she said. How can I be really sure that she is not just right for me? "It is very unfair of you to exclude me," she says. Now if you call an Aquarian "unfair" it hurts them a lot. I felt guilty too because I am a Catholic and we always keep just a little guilt. "She has a lot of spunk," I said. I told her we would continue as pen-pals even while I answered other letters. But she had stuck in my mind and I sent for her birth data. She had the moon in Pisces. Very nurturing also, I thought.

Then something sad happened which took me away from writing for a time. In October 1998, my mother died after an illness of several months. I told my correspondents that I needed time out. But soon Valeriana wrote the most consoling letter. It was about the death of her own mother 10 years earlier. "Your mother's agreement was with the Lord first, not with you first," she told me. "Do not feel bad but rather spend time with your friends and be joyous because your mom had 93 years on this earth." I felt that this squatter girl had much wisdom and life-experience. Truly she is my equal in every way. After the funeral, Annie received my mother's rosary—it was blessed (from Lourdes) and well-worn—and some of her costume jewelry too. Yes, by now I had decided to marry her. She was the one I wanted most, my own "pretty woman." I made plane reservations. I called her and said we had only two months-plus left in my lucky "Year of the Tiger." Soon Annie gave notice at her job of buffing floors in a Makati office. She spent time with her several godchildren at the railroad and then began a big cross-stitch picture of a bride and groom. And you already know about the rest.

Meanwhile, back in the States, I had no shortage of people counseling me about life, like some horror stories about guys taken advantage of by foreign pen-pals. Sure. But I understood one thing pretty well. The No. 1 law of the universe is the law of attraction: "That which is like unto itself is drawn." In other words, the love songs are all correct. Reality does "bend" to promote the meeting of kindred people. So I dismissed my critics and worried friends out of hand. I told them, "With half-hearted belief I will only get half-hearted results." I guess I believed I could go fly too. Yes, honey, the clouds are down there now.

George Loftus, 63, is an American who now lives in Mindanao.

THEY SAID

Bad travel advice

"These advisories whet the appetite of terrorists because it passes on the message that their activities are getting the desired effects."

—Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon on various travel advisories released by countries

Warning whacks

"If you are in active service and I catch you, I will whack you. You better think many times before you do something like that. Better still, you better ask people who served under me about what I do to idiots who try to destabilize or have nothing to do."

—AFP Chief of Staff Benjamin Defensor's warning to soldiers spreading coup rumors

People power transformed

"Let us move people power from the streets to the classroom. The power of change lies in the educated youth and children."

—Manila Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas

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The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

HB 4110 and abortion

TEXT messages have been going around saying that House Bill (HB) 4110 or the "Reproductive Health Care Agenda Act of 2001" legalizes abortion, even for 13-year-old teenagers, without the consent of their parents. I have obtained a copy of the bill (for those interested, it can be downloaded in the Internet) and actually found out that nowhere in the bill is abortion proposed to be legalized nor does it allow abortion as a family planning method. In fact, it seeks to promote the "prevention and management of abortion and its complications." The legislation also clearly stipulates that programs must be in place "that make sure that abortion is **not** being used as a family planning method."

Prevention of abortion and management of its complications are direly needed in the Philippines because according to the Department of Health, it is the third leading cause of hospitalization from 1994 to 1998. One in six pregnancies end in abortion. A study in 1994 by the University of the Philippines Population Institute showed that up to 500,000 induced abortions were done clandestinely every year. The statistics are alarming and the practice of abortion endangers the lives of both women and their children. The latest data show that in the Philippines, for every 100,000 women who give birth, 172 die, and for every 1,000 babies born, 36 die. These rates are among the highest in the world.

Based on the State of Philippine Population Report 2000 of the Commission on Population, induced abortions occur due to unwanted pregnancies. The report also said that the most effective way of reducing pregnancies is through effective family planning methods. However, due to lack of options, women face legal and religious condemnation, risk contracting permanent reproductive disabilities and even endanger their lives when they seek abortion.

It must be clear that most who practice abortion are not teenagers, but women aged 30 to 35 who already have several children. These are poor, married women who resort to abortion because they cannot afford to have another mouth to feed. The Population Commission reported that sexual relations and child-bearing are still dependent on Filipino men as the ultimate decision-makers. Thus, male involvement is imperative in the success of reproductive health programs.

Abortion is just one of the issues addressed by HB 4110. Also specified is the "right of men and women to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice." It also includes "the right of access to appropriate health care services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth, and provide individuals and couples with the best chance of having a healthy infant."

HB 4110 does not legalize abortion in any way, but actually helps to reduce and prevent it. It would be unfair to junk a good piece of legislation which seeks to improve the health and lives of women, based merely on misleading and distorted propaganda appealing to emotions.

—HAZEL R. PASCUAL,
Philippine Health Social Science
Association (PHSSA), Rm. 318
Asian Social Institute Bldg., 1518
Leon Guinto St., Malate, Manila

An overdue memo

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando's issuing a memo prohibiting traffic enforcers without nameplates from arresting motorists to prevent mulcting is overdue.

Do motorists know that some traffic aides of local government units are not government employees because they are hired through the so-called "job order basis"? In some cases, they are hired as "laborers" but assigned to perform traffic enforcement.

And because they are not government employees, their names do not appear in the organizational roster of the local government unit in Metro Manila. Hence, victimized motorists who bother to lodge a complaint with the Metro Manila Development Authority appear foolish.

—BERTRAND HAMAMALE,
Krus na Ligas, Diliman, QC

Talking of human rights

I HAVE noticed that Rina Jimenez-David always speaks of women's rights but never bothers to talk about the rights of the human life inside the womb of a woman. That human life growing in the womb of a woman also has rights which should be respected and upheld by the rest of us since it is totally defenseless.

Sure, we understand that we have to take care of women's rights but it should not be done at the expense of another life through the abortifacient effect of contraceptives and through abortion, which the woman can choose since she does not want the human life growing inside her womb. Besides, that human life did not choose to exist. So why make that innocent, defenseless human life suffer for a mistake that was not of its own making?

—LUCILLE A. ABRAHAM,
20 October St., Congressional
Village, Quezon City

Azcuna didn't rectify a wrong

REGARDING the spirited defense of lawyer (now Justice) Adolf Azcuna by his former law partners in a letter published on Oct. 26, we note that they repeatedly stressed his "decency." But the quality of decency, which is defined as "conforming to the required standard of propriety," evades the issue. What Sec. 7 (3) of Art. VIII of the Constitution requires is that a member of the judiciary must be a person of "proven competence, integrity, probity and independence," regardless of whether he looks decent or not.

His law partners would have the public believe that at the hearing of the Judicial and Bar Council on Oct. 8, Azcuna's reputation had been "cleared under the most rigorous grilling." As executive director of Bantay Katarungan, I was there with some of our student monitors and other lawyers and reporters who witnessed the grilling by Dean Dimayuga and retired Justice Hermosisima. In our view, which is shared by many who were there and by the reports published in the media the next day, his answers to their questions only bolstered the points raised by Bantay Katarungan on Aug. 12 and explained why he failed the first time—something his law partners did not mention. He applied the second time and had to undergo the public interview on Oct. 8. Why he passed the second time, despite the quality of his answers, is something only the JBC can answer.

The basic defense put up by Azcuna was to the effect that he had not been made aware of the questionable acquisition of the Trans Middle East Corp. and that the anomaly had been committed behind his back. The fact, however, is that he was no ordinary incorporator or officer of the corporation, but its top officer! Which means he allowed his name to be used for purposes of pushing the questionable transaction (i.e., fronting for Kokoy Romualdez in the acquisition of controlling shares in PCI Bank). Besides, such a spurious arrangement—of setting up a nominal president, or a nominal chair, a nominal board member, etc.—does not exist in the Corporation Code.

Azcuna explained that having precisely realized the wrongfulness of the transaction, he resigned from the law firm of Jose Bengzon, where he was a partner. But did that resignation obliterate the anomaly of the deed? It is clear from the documents submitted by Bantay Katarungan to the JBC and from Azcuna's own responses during the interview, that neither before nor after his purported resignation did he do anything to rectify the wrong act of the corporation.

—EMILIO C. CAPULONG JR.,
executive director, Bantay Katarungan,
Kilosbayan House, 7 First St.,
Acacia Lane, Mandaluyong City 1550

Preserving monuments in Intramuros

EACH year in February the friends of Intramuros Foundation honor the more than 20 monuments in and around Intramuros. This is our way of reminding our students about our history and heroes. We note the condition of the monuments and try to see to their maintenance for the future.

We have noted the neglect of the Gomburza Monument fronting the National Museum on Burgos Street. By means of this letter we hope to contact any NGO such as the Friends of Gomburza or other civil groups which can help us in restoring parts of the monument and putting the proper markers. That will inform visitors of its significance. By virtue of its prominence the monument could become an instructional tool, if properly labeled.

—ROBERT F. LANE, president,
Friends of Intramuros Foundation Inc.,
El Amanecer Bldg., 744 Calle Real del Palacio,
Intramuros, Manila

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US pedophile priests may get reprieve

WASHINGTON—The US Conference of Catholic Bishops opened here Monday to revise its policy on pedophile priests after the Vatican rejected its first "zero tolerance" recommendation to dismiss anyone accused of such crimes.

Under pressure of a Vatican veto, some 288 bishops, including eight cardinals, are cloistered for four days in a Washington hotel to cobble together a new, more lenient text than they approved last June in Texas.

That declaration called for the immediate removal of any priest who has sexually abused a minor, including in the past.

"We will not step back from our compassion for those who have been harmed or from our determination to put into place policies that will protect children," said Belleville, Illinois Bishop Wilton Gregory, president of the conference.

Faced with snowballing abuse scandals, the conference had met in Dallas, Texas, in June and adopted a series of resolutions amounting to a zero-tolerance policy on pedophilia and sexual abuse by men of the cloth.

The "Dallas charter" was submitted to the Vatican at the end of June, but on Oct. 18 Pope John Paul II rejected the text as "vague and imprecise and therefore difficult to interpret," as well as being "the source of confusion and ambiguity."

"The Dallas goals are intact so that children are protected and the victims are assisted and the means remain for the removal from the ministry of anyone who has been involved in such a sin or crime," said Chicago Cardinal Francis George.

"What was implicit in the Dallas charter is now explicit, that is that if a priest is accused, he has a right to a fair (canonical) trial," Bishop Thomas Doran, of Rockford, Illinois said. *AFP*

Iraq parliament may reject UN resolution on disarmament

MEMBERS of Iraq's parliament attend a session to decide a response to the latest UN resolution in Baghdad Nov. 11. The head of an Iraqi parliamentary committee, Salim al-Kubaisi, on Monday recommended that the assembly reject a tough new UN resolution demanding that Iraq disarm. REUTERS

BAGHDAD—Iraq's parliament reconvenes on Tuesday to vote on a motion to reject a new UN resolution on disarmament, but the assembly speaker said deputies would leave the final say to President Saddam Hussein.

Deputies gathered in emergency session on Monday to hear speaker Saadoun Hammadi denounce the tough UN text as a violation of Iraqi sovereignty and a "preamble for war."

"What is proposed is the rejection of the UN resolution for its ill intentions," Hammadi told reporters.

"At the same time, the parliament will authorize the leadership to take any measures which it sees appropriate to defend the country. The parliament will stand by its leadership whatever this decision is," he added.

The 250-seat parliament met for three hours on Monday as US President George W. Bush made clear he would use the full force of US military might to make Iraq comply.

The assembly adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday when it will resume the debate on the resolution passed unanimously by the UN Security Council last week demanding Baghdad disarm or face possible military action.

"This UN resolution looks for a pretext (for war) and not for a comprehensive solution. It seeks to create crises rather than cooperation and paves the way for aggression rather than peace," Hammadi said in opening the assembly.

Hammadi did not say if voting would take place on Tuesday but the final decision rests with the Revolutionary Command Council, Iraq's highest authority, which is led by Saddam.

All key decisions in Iraq are taken by Saddam and nothing parliament decides is likely to be more than an orchestrated show of defiance, analysts said.

Iraq has until Friday to accept the terms of the resolution demanding Baghdad allow UN arms experts unhindered access to any site suspected of producing chemical, biological or nuclear weapons or face "serious consequences."

The resolution also gives UN arms experts sweeping new rights and Iraq 30 days to submit a detailed list of its weapons.

"The dictator of Iraq will fully disarm, or the United States will lead a coalition and disarm him," Bush said at a US Veterans' Day ceremony.

Bush described the disarmament campaign against Iraq as part of the US war on terrorism launched after the hijacked airliner attacks on the United States on Sept. 11 last year. "Should military action become necessary for our own security, I will commit the full force and might of the United States military, and we will prevail," Bush said.

US national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said Bush reserved the right to use force without Security Council approval if Iraq violated the resolution. But Washington would initially discuss with the Council the consequences of a breach.

The resolution gives the Council a key role before any possible attack, but does not force Washington to seek authorization for war.But Iraq's official and state-controlled media, which have denounced the resolution, claimed Iraqi lobbying of Security Council members denied Washington the right to attack Iraq.

Disarmament inspections first started after Iraqi forces were expelled from neighboring Kuwait by a US-led coalition in the 1991 Gulf War. Inspectors withdrew in 1998 in a wrangle over access to Saddam's palaces. *Reuters*

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Police seek Bali suspect's brothers

A TEAM of bomb investigators unload sections of a pipe containing bullets believed to belong to terror suspect Amrozy, in Lamongan, East Java, Nov. 11. Amrozi, suspected of helping to assemble the bomb used in the Bali bombing on Oct. 12, told police he wanted revenge for US attacks on Iraq and Afghanistan, police said.

AFP

DENPASAR, Indonesia—Indonesian police said Tuesday they were hunting two brothers of the prime suspect in the Bali bombing after a weapons cache was unearthed near the suspect's home.

Two of Amrozi's younger brothers, Ali Imron and Ali Fauzi, were seen burying the weapons near his East Java village two days after he was arrested, said Inspector General I Made Mangku Pastika.

Pastika, who heads the Indonesian investigating team, would not say if the younger brothers were suspects in the bombing itself.

"I am very sure we will arrest them soon," he told a press conference on Bali island, where a car bomb triggered off an inferno in a nightclub district on October 12, killing at least 190 people.

Police found five rifles—two M-16s, one AR-15 and two Lee Enfield models—two FN handguns and more than 5,000 rounds of ammunition inside plastic pipes.

The arrest of Amrozi at his remote farming village of Tenggulun on Nov. 5 was the first breakthrough in the high-powered multinational probe, which includes Australian and FBI investigators.

The village has since become a focus of the investigation.

Dozens of police on Tuesday raided the female residence at the Al-Islam Islamic boarding school in the village, ElShinta radio reported.

Police searched virtually every room including the kitchen and bathroom, the radio reported. The school was founded by one of Amrozi's brothers.

Police say Amrozi, after 40 hours of stubborn silence, began giving details of the plot late last week.

Pastika said Tuesday that Amrozi and his colleagues began meeting about six weeks beforehand to plan the blast.

They held two to three meetings from late August until early September in the Central Java city of Solo, he said.

The plotters also met on Bali island. At two of three meeting places which have been traced on the island, Australian and local forensic scientists found residues of explosive matching the types used in the blast.

Police were trying to trace an empty house in the island where the group also met.

AFP

Queen may order probe of collapse of Diana butler's trial

LONDON—Britain's Queen Elizabeth II may order an independent inquiry into the collapse of the Diana butler theft trial and allegations of a royal cover-up over an alleged rape, British newspapers reported on Tuesday.

The Times said heir to the throne Prince Charles—under pressure from his mother—could be forced to announce an inquiry before the weekend. It quoted a Buckingham Palace official as saying: "The prince has to ensure complete transparency. An independent inquiry is the only way."

The Daily Mail tabloid said the inquiry was expected to be announced later Tuesday and that the queen and prince were likely to be interviewed as part of the investigation chaired by a member of the judiciary or high-ranking civil servant.

It would be the first time that an outsider has been called upon to investigate conduct of the royal family, The Times said.

Responding to the reports, a spokesperson for the prince said: "We are considering a number of options."

Newspapers reported that Charles spent late Monday locked in talks with senior aides in a bid to solve the crisis enveloping the monarchy since the collapse of the butler trial on Nov. 1, when Princess Diana's former butler Paul Burrell was acquitted of stealing hundreds of her belongings.

The prosecution's case fell apart when the queen intervened, suddenly recalling that Burrell informed her of his intention to hold some items in safekeeping.

Since then Burrell has gone public with revelations about a strange conversation he had with the queen and his disgust for the Spencers, Diana's blood family.

Burrell's revelations have led to other royal servants coming out of the closet. In an interview with the latest edition of the Mail on Sunday, former royal valet George Smith said he was raped in 1989 by an unnamed key aide to Prince Charles.

Smith, who accused Charles of covering up the affair, claimed that in 1996 he told Diana about the alleged rape and that she recorded his accusation on tape.

The Mail on Sunday reported that Diana deposited the cassette, labelled "The Confessions of George Smith," in a locked mahogany box—the one police were searching for when they raided Burrell's house during their theft inquiry in January 2001.

The box, minus the tape, was produced at Burrell's trial.

Burrell told Tuesday's edition of the Daily Mirror tabloid that he had no idea where the tape was, adding that the last time he saw it was when he opened the box in the presence of Diana's sister Lady Sarah McCorquodale following the princess' death in 1997.

Burrell, 44, told the Mirror: "I told Lady Sarah about the tape. I knew because the princess had told me, but I have never heard the tape and don't know what its contents are in full."

AFP

Israel Army sweeps into refugee camp

TULKARM, West Bank—The Israeli army swept into Tulkarm refugee camp in the West Bank early on Tuesday following a Palestinian militant attack on a kibbutz that killed five Israelis, witnesses said.

Israeli security sources had said hours before that Israel had decided on military action in the Tulkarm and Nablus areas of the West Bank because they were suspected of links to Sunday night's assault on the collective farm community inside Israel.

In the village of Shweike, north of Tulkarm, Israeli troops demolished a house belonging to Mohammed Naifeh, described as a senior activist from Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

Naifeh "was responsible for the attack," the Israel army spokesperson said in a statement.

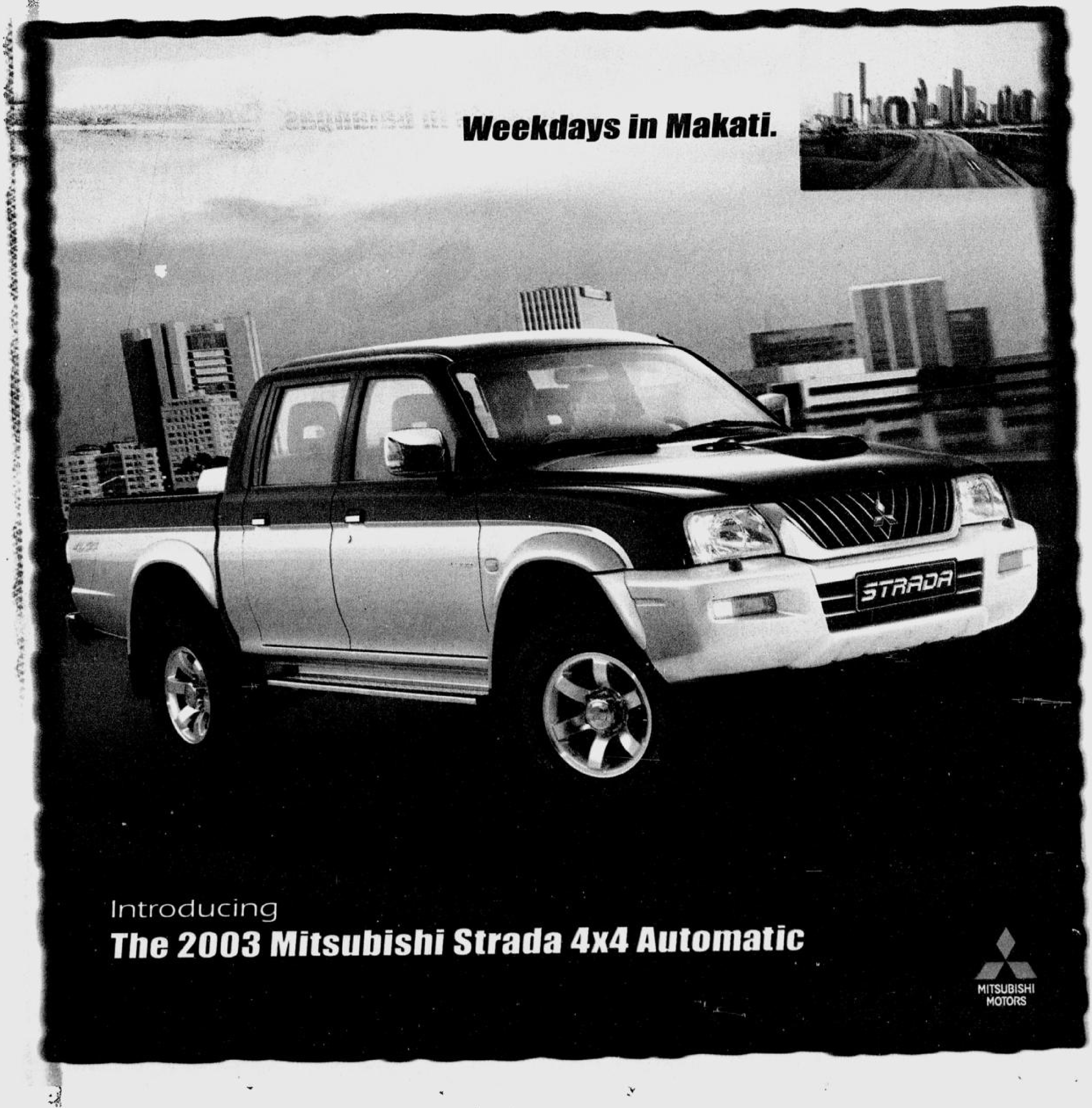
Troops combed Tulkarm camp for militants, but the incursion was not part of a military response, military sources said.

Military retaliation for the attack by a lone gunman, who killed the collective farm community's administrator, two women and two small children before escaping, was likely to complicate a new US peace mission that began on Monday.

Palestinian witnesses and security sources said around 30 tanks, armored troop carriers and jeeps stormed into Tulkarm's camp around 3 a.m. and fanned through the streets.

They reported heavy gunfire from Israeli troops but no immediate resistance from Palestinian militants, who have been waging an uprising against Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since September 2000.

Reuters



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

AMINA Lawal, 31, cuddles her 8-month-old baby in the Funtua Sharia courtroom in July. The controversy surrounding the staging of the Miss World beauty pageant in Nigeria has thrown the spotlight on the bitter debate over the use of Islamic law in Africa's most populous country. Several beauty queens, horrified by the case of Amina Lawal, who was sentenced to be stoned to death for bearing a child out of wedlock, threatened to boycott Nigeria. AFP

Miss World pageant proceeds despite Nigeria controversy

ABUJA—More than 80 of the world's most beautiful women flew into Nigeria on Monday to take part in the Miss World, ending fears the event would be marred by a boycott in protest over death sentences hanging over two young mothers.

"There is no boycott," declared a delighted Ben Murray-Bruce, head of Nigerian state television and a key organizer of the event, as reporters counted 84 beauty queens trooping off the plane.

Welcoming the young women to Nigeria, junior foreign minister Dubem Onyia tried to draw a line once and for all under the controversy that has dogged preparations for the 52nd Miss World beauty pageant.

"No Nigerian has ever been stoned to death and we will never allow any Nigerian to be stoned," he declared, to applause from the contestants.

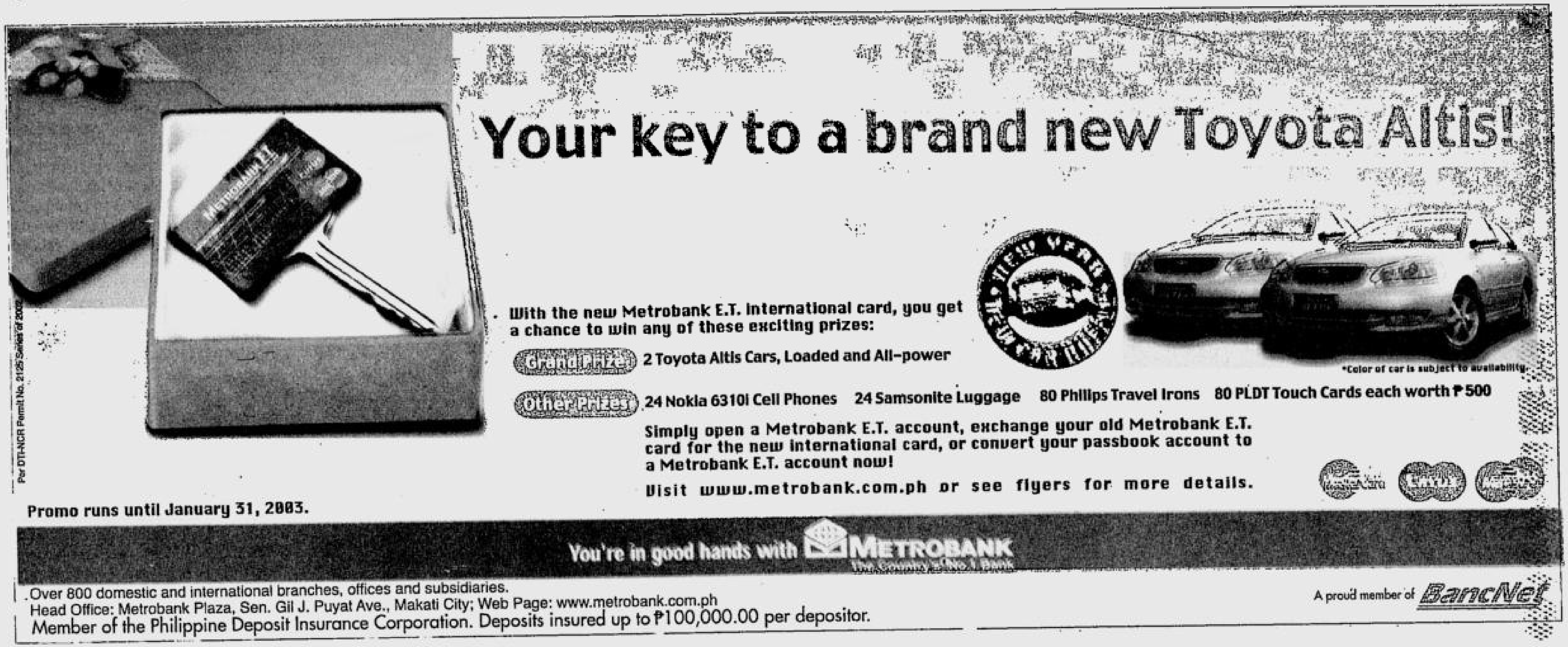
Several beauty queens had threatened to boycott the event in protest against the Islamic Sharia courts in northern Nigeria, which since 1999 have been trying to reintroduce a series of harsh punishments, including stonings.

Amina Lawal and an unmarried pair of former lovers—Fatima Usman and Ahmadu Ibrahim—have been sentenced to death by stoning for having sex out of wedlock and are currently waiting for dates to be set for their appeals.

But senior Nigerian officials have insisted that their appeals will eventually be successful, arguing that Sharia criminal law is unconstitutional.

Miss World president Julia Morley and most of the invited beauty queens have accepted the government's assurances and are determined to forge on with a month-long program of events culminating in a Dec. 7 closing ceremony.

Despite the controversy, the arrival at Abuja international airport aboard a specially chartered Nigeria Airways airliner, was a joyous event. *AFP*



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Lung ailments plague studes living near cement plant

CAMALIG, Albay—A recent routine physical assessment of the education department's Health and Nutrition Unit has alarmed the local government here after the result revealed that half of the student population in the Palanog Elementary School here suffers from lung ailments allegedly due to a nearby cement factory.

The Palanog Elementary School has 397 students and half of them were found to have tuberculosis and asthma and regularly had coughs.

Acting school principal Herman Manga told the INQUIRER that most of the affected students are in Grades I and II.

Grade II teacher Gilda Negrete, who has been working in the school for 20 years, said the lung ailments suffered by the pupils could have resulted from the students' poor nutrition.

She, however, did not dispel the possibility that the cement factory could have affected the students' health.

Goodfound Cement Corp. (GCC) is just 500 meters away from the school and is 600 meters away from the residential area of Barangay Palanog.

GCC, which has been operating for three years now, has been getting flak from residents allegedly due to the ill effects of its operations not only on the health but also on the residents' day-to-day life.

Carlito Aparri, GCC manager, however, asserted that all the complaints regarding the poor health of the students here could not be attributed to dust emission.

He claimed that his firm has been abiding by the health standards of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"The plant only spews 50 milligrams per cubic meter of dust as compared to the standard of the DENR which is 150 milligram per cubic meter, which means it is not too hazardous to health," Aparri said.

He added that before the operation of the plant, children residing in the area were already noted as malnourished.

"If they insist that there are students suffering from weak lungs, why is it that they are not submitting the names of the students to our office so we could also double-check it. If found positive, maybe we can give the victims medical care treatment," Aparri said.

He also told the INQUIRER that if the dust is really hazardous to health, the first persons to be affected should be the employees themselves.

Residents, however, claimed that when it is windy, their houses are covered with dust and their surroundings become gloomy, reminding them of ashfalls every time Mayon Volcano erupts.

Alarmed with the health of the students, school officials urged local authorities to immediately relocate the school.

This prompted Barangay Chair Glenn Naparam to convene the council to deliberate on the issue.

He said if the cement plant turns out to be the main cause of the residents' and students' sufferings, they will petition for the relocation of the plant and not the school.

A staff member of the DepEd Health and Nutrition Unit clarified that their physical assessment on the pupils was just part of their routine monitoring of the students' health.

The same person, who refused to be identified, explained that it would take another medical team to validate the findings.

The DENR's Environment and Management Bureau admitted that the relocation of Palanog Elementary School had been one of the considerations even before the factory started to operate. *Ronnie Lorejo and Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Abu Sayyaf still holds 8 hostages

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Remember Roland Ulla?

He was one of the 21 mostly foreigners abducted by Abu Sayyaf bandits from a diving resort in Sipadan, Malaysia in April 2000. He, however, remains in captivity.

And Ulla's wife, Joy, has become more and more desperate. "I feel hopeless," Joy said, adding she and her two children survive through "begging."

Joy has been asking assistance from government, military and social welfare officials.

Joy has spent two Christmases without Roland. "I'm afraid, we might be spending Christmas again without him," she said.

But Southern Command chief Lt. General Narciso Abaya said the military's operations to rescue the remaining hostages also cover Ulla.

But Abaya said there were reports that Ulla had the chances to escape "but he did not."

"I don't know if he has the will to escape . . . I don't know if he is still alive now," Abaya said.

He said all the hostages who were either rescued or had escaped had the will to be free.

"All of them left clues and trails (for us) to follow," Abaya said.

Aside from Ulla, seven hostages are still being held captive. The hostages include Indonesians Muntu Jacobus Winowatan, Pieter Lerrich and Jul Kipli who were abducted on June 17 off Capual Island in Luuk Sulu; and Jehovah's Witnesses Cleofe Montulo and Florida Montulo, Emily Mantic and Nori Bendijo who were kidnapped on Aug. 20 in Patikul, Sulu.

"We are doing our best to recover all the hostages," Abaya said.

Meanwhile, Sulu Gov. Yusop Jikiri rejected the P16-million ransom demanded by the Abu Sayyaf faction led by Radulan Sahiron in exchange for the release of the Indonesians and the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Jikiri said he received a letter from Sahiron, saying his group was willing to end the spate of kidnappings in Sulu "only if" he (Jikiri) is willing to pay P16 million.

But Jikiri said he will uphold the government's no-ransom policy. *Julie Alipala with a report from Ed General, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'People power' launched vs Viscaya college exec

BAMBANG, Nueva Vizcaya—Students and teachers of the Nueva Vizcaya State Polytechnic College (NVSPC) on Monday started mass actions to demand the ouster of their college president, whom they accused of corruption and abuse of authority.

Wearing black armbands, the protesters went out of their classrooms and started a sit-down strike. They vowed never to return unless Dr. Patricio Unday, NVSPC president, resigned.

The group, led by faculty members and officers of the student government, accused Unday of abusing his authority by allegedly imposing "arbitrary collections" on teachers and students in the guise of worthwhile projects and fund-raising activities.

They also accused Unday of using his favored employees as "spies" against those who opposed his policies.

Unday denied the allegations and said the NVSPC management is taking note of those who are joining the rally.

"Those (allegations) are all lies. Those were created by people who wanted to destroy my personality and integrity, and the name of (NVSPC)," he said.

"Lord, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing," he added.

The protesting faculty members cited the fund-raising schemes that Unday supposedly initiated, the funds of which, they said, have not been accounted for.

They said Unday ordered the collection of P100 to P300 from the students as mandatory contribution for the "Piso Ko, Gym Natin Movement," a fund-raising activity intended to raise funds for the proposed college gymnasium.

They accused Unday of manipulating bidding procedures in the school and demanding commissions from contractors.

They also claimed Unday imposed a P200-penalty on every member of the Parents-Teachers Community Association who failed to attend a recent general assembly meeting. They said the collections were allegedly never turned over to the organization.

"We resolved that we will not hesitate to exercise our vested right by staging rallies and demonstrations, parliament of the streets and other paralegal means," the protesters said.

Unday shrugged off the threats. "It is only the board of trustees, which unanimously re-appointed me, can make me step down from my office," he said. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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26 illegal fishers, vessel held

LEGAZPI CITY—Twenty-six illegal fishers were arrested here in separate incidents last week.

Joint elements of Libon police, Bantay Dagat Task Force and the 22nd Infantry Battalion, all based in Albay, intercepted and apprehended 17 illegal fishers on board the fishing vessel Dadds 1 along the municipal waters of Libon town, Friday night.

Senior Supt. Pedro Tango, Albay police director, identified the leaders of the group as Rogelio Nuneza, 61, operations manager of Dadds 1, boat captain Johnny Mediavilla, 42, and the crew's team leader, Oscar Lion, 47, all of Pitogo, Quezon. The boat has 14 other crewmen.

Libon police chief Senior Insp. Edcel Garcia said the group was spotted by the roving Bantay Dagat Task Force at around 10 p.m., Friday, while fishing using the prohibited fine mesh net.

The 14 crewmembers were held in custody by the task force, while their three officials are detained at the Libon police detention center.

This latest apprehension took place following the local government's intensified drive against illegal fishing.

In Masbate, police arrested nine other fishermen last Nov. 6 in Barangay Morocborocan, Monreal for illegal fishing.

Confiscated from them were three bottles of cyanide, fish caught with the use of dynamite and other fishing paraphernalia.

The apprehended fishermen were brought to the Monreal police station for investigation and filing of criminal charges against them in court. *Ronnie Lorejo and Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

32 hospitals sell low-cost medicines

HEALTH officials have identified 32 provincial hospitals which sell imported quality medicines which are 23 to 35 percent cheaper than retail prices. This is part of President Macapagal-Arroyo's program for cheap medicines for the poor or GMA 50, according to a press release of the Office of First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo.

The hospitals include the following:

Apayao: Conner District Hospital, Conner; Far North Luzon General Hospital, Luna;

Bataan: Bataan General Hospital, Balanga; Mariveles Mental Hospital, Mariveles;

Albay: Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital, Rizal St., Legazpi City;

Camarines Sur: Bicol Medical Center, Naga City; Don Susano Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center, Pili and Bicol Sanitarium, Cabusan;

Palawan: Culion Sanitarium and Balala Hospital, Culion; Ospital ng Palawan, Puerto Princesa City;

Bohol: Don Emilio del Valle Memorial Hospital, Ubay; Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital, Tagbilaran City;

Cebu: Vicente Sotto Sr. Memorial Medical Center, Cebu City; Talisay District Hospital, Talisay; St. Anthony Mother and Child Hospital, Basac, San Nicolas; Eversley Child Sanitarium, Mandaue City;

Davao: Davao Medical Center, Davao City; Davao Regional Hospital, Tagum City, Davao del Norte;

Iloilo: Western Visayas Sanitarium, Sta. Barbara; Western Visayas Medical Center, Iloilo City; Don Jose Monfort Medical Center Extension, Barotac Nuevo;

Lanao del Sur: Amai Pakpak Medical Center, Marawi City; Dr. Serapio Montaner Al Jaj Memorial Hospital, Malabang;

Maguindanao: Maguindanao Provincial Hospital, Shariff Aguak; Buluan District Hospital, Buluan;

Zamboanga: Zamboanga City Medical Center on Evangelista St., Labuan Public Hospital and Mindanao Central Sanitarium, all in Zamboanga City; Dr. Jose Rizal Memorial Hospital, Dapitan City, Zamboanga del Norte and Margosatubig Regional Hospital, Margosatubig Zamboanga del Sur.

Surigao del Sur: Adela Serra Ty Memorial Medical Center, Tandag; Caraga Regional Hospital, Surigao City.

Among the medicines that the hospitals sell and their prices as compared to retail outlets are: Ionozem 30 mg (P9.62/ P25.40), Ionozem 60 mg (P15.23/P35.70), Voveran 50 mg (P5.85/P16.35), Voveran 100 mg (P10.40/P31.25), Diamicron 80 mg (P9.45/P11.50), Isordil 10 mg (P3.51/P9), Buscopan 20 mg/ml injectables (P28.60/P67.50), Serenace 1.5 mg (P3.26/P7), Serenace 5 mg (P8.09/P11.40), Serenace 20 mg (P16.77/P39.40), Tegretol 100 mg/5 ml. and 100 ml suspension (P119.18/P245.42) and Dilatin 100 mg (P4.81/P20.38)

President Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier directed the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to allocate P100 million for the cheap medicines for the poor program.

Fil-Am mayor ousted from post

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The Filipino-American mayor of Oras, Eastern Samar was ousted from his post on Friday after the Supreme Court ruled with finality that he failed to comply with the required one year residency in the town even if he had reacquired his Filipino citizenship prior to the 2001 elections.

The Department of Interior and Local Government, by virtue of the Supreme Court ruling, removed from his post Mayor Teodolo Coquilla in an order dated Oct. 30, 2002 and signed by Undersecretary Eduardo Soliman.

The order was implemented on Friday by the DILG regional office in Eastern Visayas. On the same day, the town's vice mayor, Virgilio Montances, was installed as the acting mayor.

Soliman furnished Eastern Samar Gov. Clotilde Salazar a copy of the DILG's decision.

In separate rulings, Coquilla was disqualified both by the Commission on Elections and the Supreme Court on the ground that he failed to met the one-year residency for an individual to be qualified to run for public office.

Prior to his running for mayor of Oras during the 2001 elections, Coquilla was a long time resident and citizen of the United States.

Based on records, Coquilla served the US government as a Navy personnel for almost 30 years. He, however, claimed that he regained his Filipino citizenship and was thus qualified to run for any public office in the country.

But the Supreme Court Second Division ruled that the term "residence" is to be understood not in its common acceptance as referring to "dwelling" or "habitation" but "rather to domicile or legal residence, that is, the place where a party actually or constructively has his permanent home and eventually intends to return and remain."

In Coquilla's case, the court contended, he had lost it when he became a US citizen after he joined the US Navy in 1965.

"From then on and until Nov. 10, 2000, when he reacquired his Philippine citizenship, Coquilla was an alien without any right to reside in the Philippines save as our immigration laws may have allowed him," the High Court added.

Coquilla appealed this ruling. But the Supreme Court, sitting *en banc* on Sept. 17, 2002, upheld the Second Division's ruling.

On Oct. 25, the Comelec *en banc* issued an order reiterating that its July 19, 2001 ruling disqualifying Coquilla as a candidate for mayor of Oras could now be implemented.

Coquilla defeated then incumbent Mayor Niel Alvarez by more than 300 votes in the May 2001 elections.

It was Alvarez who filed the electoral protest against Coquilla claiming he was not qualified to seek for the contested position.

Lawyers, NGOs seek release of 35 youths on Christmas

BAGUIO CITY—Lawyers and civic groups advocating child rights are seeking the release of 35 juvenile delinquents, who are serving time with adult detainees at the Baguio City jail, on Christmas.

The Child and Family Service Philippines Inc. (CFSPI) has invoked a memorandum of agreement between the newly formed Juvenile Justice Network and the Department of Justice to address the plight of the youth detainees, said Bernadette Ymson, CFSPI spokesperson.

The agreement requires the DOJ to entrust juvenile suspects under the care of their parents or a state rehabilitation facility if the suspects are undergoing trial.

The MOA was signed only this year, but prosecutors have yet to review the cases of the youth detainees, the office of the city prosecutor said.

Baguio judges ordered the detention of two of these juvenile suspects, who are facing trial for homicide and rape charges.

Lawyer Mia Cawed, a member of the network, said both the city's prosecution team and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines should have considered the age of several suspects they had ordered detained for petty crimes.

"This really is the lawyers' fault. The prosecutors should have been sensitive (to the age of the juvenile suspects). *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Tagged as rebel, cameraman goes into hiding

CALAPAN CITY—A television cameraman is now in hiding after Col. Jovito Palparan of the 608th Infantry Brigade based here said he belongs to the New People's Army (NPA).

Residents in Bagong Pook, San Vicente South claimed that Edu Paringit, a cameraman of local television station TVNet, was taking shots during the demolition of their houses over the weekend, when Palparan talked to him.

TVNet's technical supervisor Jake Viray asked Palparan why he talked to Paringit and learned that her cameraman had been tagged as an NPA member.

Viray took Paringit to a safe house where her cameraman has since been staying. She said due process should be observed and that they were willing to bring the matter to court.

Paringit, 21, told the INQUIRER that "they (the military) should not give me a reason to go to the mountains."

"*Talagang* NPA *sya* (He is really an NPA member)," Palparan told the INQUIRER. Palparan said Paringit alias Ka Lucio had been put under surveillance after intelligence reports linked him with the communist group.

He, however, said they were not able to arrest him because they did not have a warrant of arrest.

After two frustrated demolition attempts in February and March, 32 houses have been demolished since Friday, according to Barangay Captain Pedro Macario Untalan.

Sonia Garcia, a resident of Bagong Pook, said the demolition went on "peacefully" because the residents were afraid of the warning note and the presence of military men in full battle gear.

A billboard in front of the demolition site states: "As per court order issued by Honorable Judge Manolo Brotonel of the Municipal Trial Court for second alias writ of demolition last Sept. 26, 2002 and for the information of all people, the police and Army concerned and their men are hereby authorized to arrest any person who shall prohibit, block, hinder, impede or restrain the enforcement thereof."

On Nov. 8, the first day of the demolition, military tanks were also positioned near the demolition site.

Some residents said Kadamay, a human rights group that had helped the residents in the past, was also tagged by the military as an NPA front. *Madonna Virola with a report from Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Pro-NPA politicians on PNP, AFP watch

DAVAO CITY—Police and Army soldiers are closely watching politicians and other individuals who give support to the New People's Army (NPA).

Supt. Jaime Morente, police chief for Compostela Valley, said police are conducting counter-intelligence monitoring on some people and politicians giving aid to the NPA guerrillas.

Ealier, the mayor of Maco town in Compostela Valley was suspected of aiding NPA rebels after the latter disarmed members of the Maco police force in his presence. The mayor is facing charges in that raid.

Morente, however, said he had not yet received reports confirming that some town mayors in Compostela Valley of helping the NPA. He said politicians should not in any way give support to the NPA because "it is against their oath as public officials." *Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Concert for bishop

A MUSICAL concert "OO Batangueño," dedicated to the beatification of the Most Rev. Alfredo Maria Aranda Obviar will be staged at the Batangas Sports Complex, Sta. Rita, Batangas City on Saturday.

The concert, to feature Batangueño performing artists and friends, aims to raise funds and introduce Bishop Obviar to his fellow Batangueños especially the youth. OO stands for Obispo Obviar, the first bishop of Lucena and founder of the Institute of the Missionary Cathecist of St. Therese of the Infant Jesus who passed away in 1978. Numerous miracles and answered prayers have been attributed to Bishop Obviar whose beatification is being processed in Rome. The concert starts at 5:30 p.m. For details, call Fr. Gerard Jonas Palmares at 043-756-2572.

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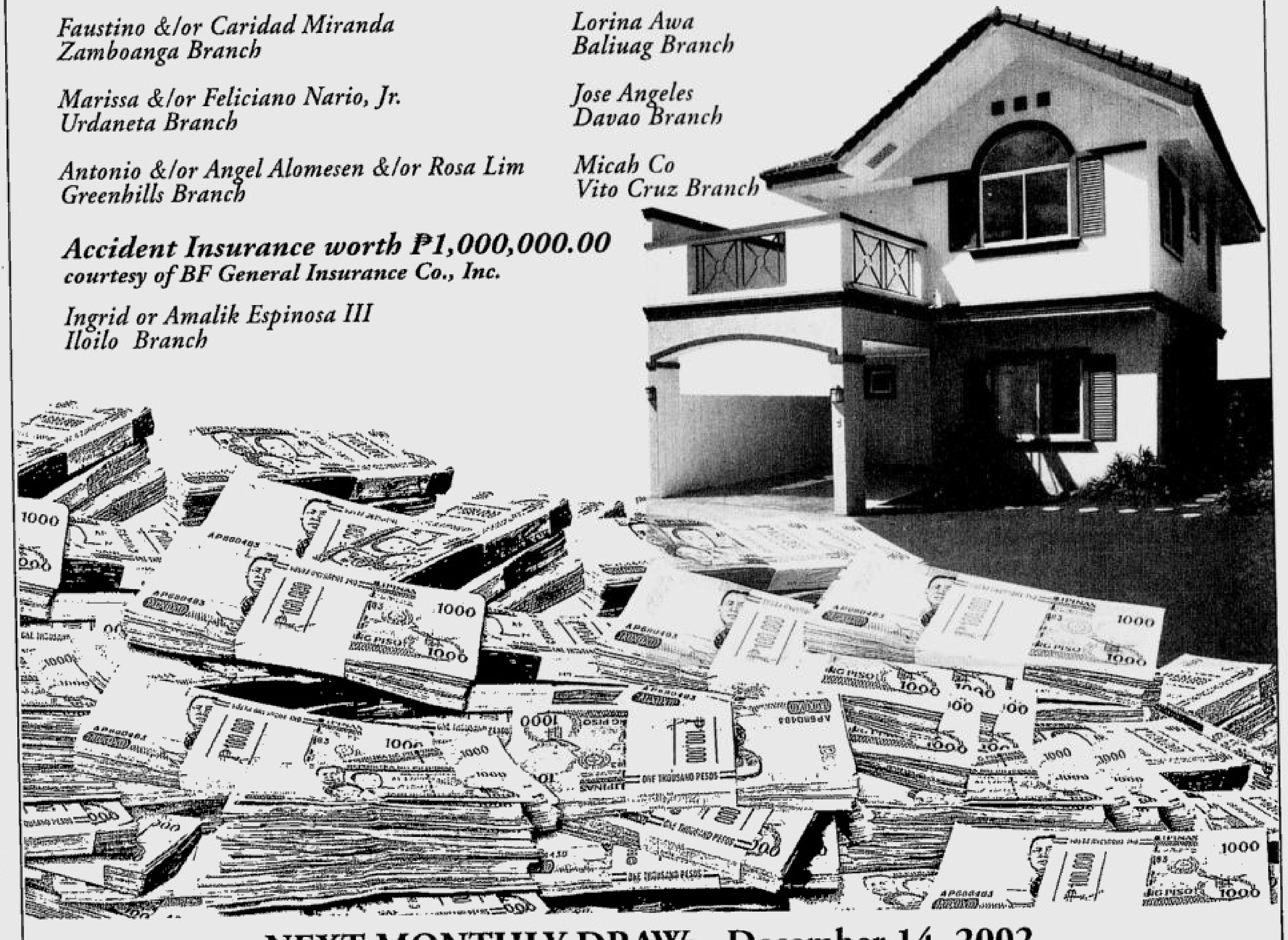

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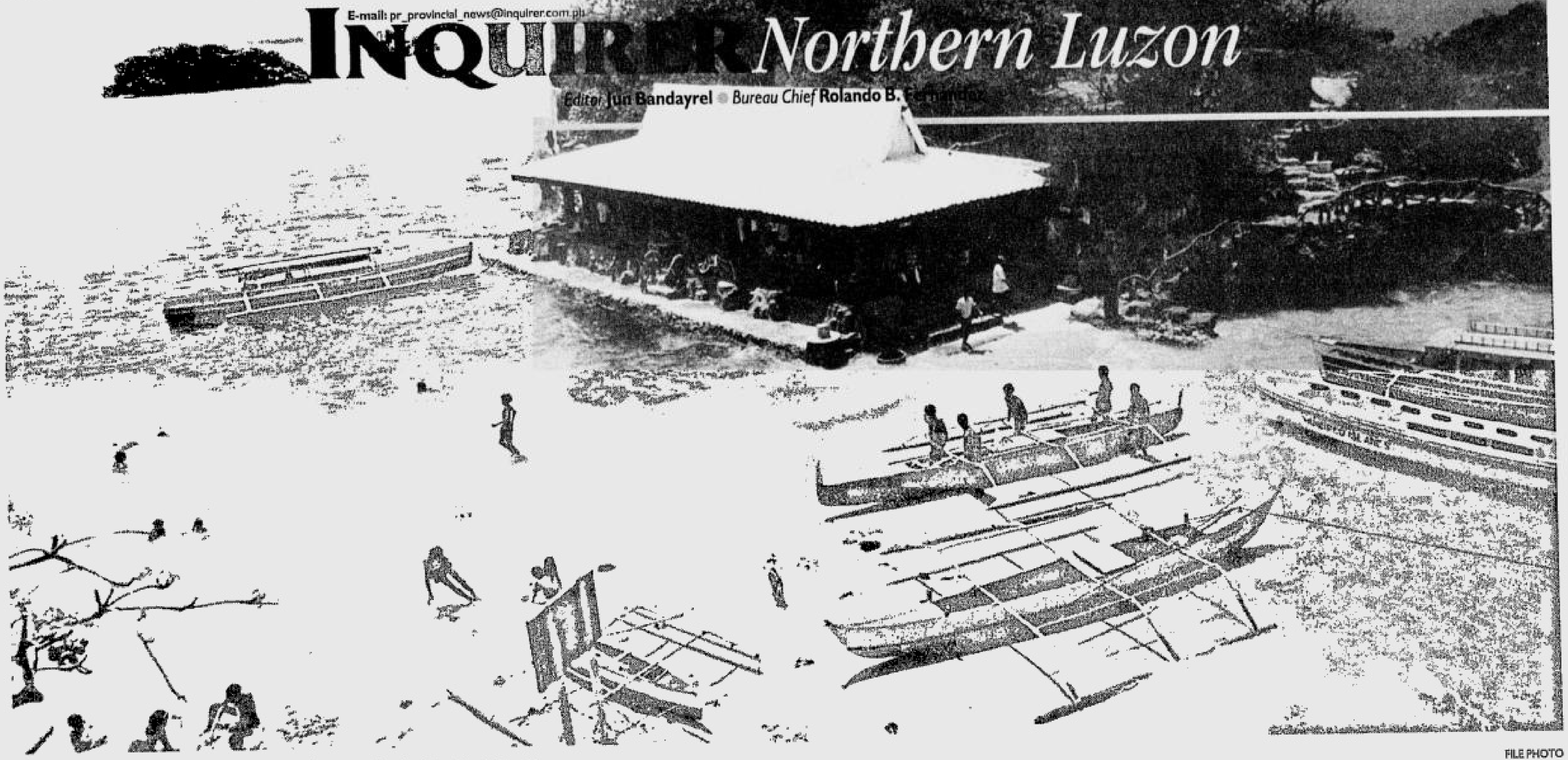


QUEZON Island, one of the favorite tourist spots, in the Hundred Islands.

FILE PHOTO

Hundred Islands on balancing act

By Jo Clemente
Alaminos City

THE HUNDRED Islands, the country's first national park in Alaminos, Pangasinan, may have been delisted from the priority destination areas of the Department of Tourism but visitors to the area continue to come.

Maricel de la Cruz, unit head for special projects and agency coordination of the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA), says her agency even anticipate an increase in the number of tourists as people would rather go north now where it is safer in the light of kidnapping and bombing incidents in other parts of the country.

With the start of travel season this week, she says, precaution is also being done so as not to hamper ongoing rehabilitation activities in the area.

De la Cruz says high visitor traffic to the Hundred Islands usually starts in November and then wanes toward June-July when the rainy season sets in. PTA statistics for the last four years had counted a yearly average of 100,000 visitors to the islands.

Encouraging more visitors to the area as well as safeguarding present rehabilitation works will now be the big balancing act for the PTA.

National pride

The Hundred Islands National Park (HINP) has been pushed to the backroom of Philippine tourist attractions due to the degradation of its natural elements basically caused by human activities.

Nestled on a corner of the Lingayen Gulf, the Hundred Islands (actually 123), covering 1,844 hectares, has been a rich source of marine life and a sanctuary for wild ducks, monkeys, reptiles and whale sharks. Its unusual geography has made it famous, including white beaches, inland and underwater caves, and crystal clear water, not to mention history and legend.

The Hundred Islands was declared the first national park of the country in January 1940 through Proclamation 667 issued by Commonwealth President Manuel L. Quezon. It is found 267 kilometer north of Manila and 165 km south of Baguio City.

But illegal fishing, improper waste disposal, destruction, poaching or gathering of corals and other marine life, trampling and improper anchorage have taken toll on the islands.

A manifestation of such ecological pressure is the sharp decline in fish catch and the inability of the reef to recover from natural events like tropical storms and diseases. Massive siltation, attributed to bad land management, also contributes to the degradation of the HINP.

Siltation suffocates coral reefs. Tiny coral polyps and other creatures once covered with fine sand cannot feed or breathe.

Siltation also decreases the amount of light that penetrates the water thus diminishing photosynthesis in plants and corals. Photosynthesis is the ability of plants to produce their own food with the aid of sunlight. Minus this, the plants and the reefs are robbed of a main energy source.

All these have contributed to an ecological imbalance and degradation of the islands.

Rehabilitation

The Protected Area Management Board of the Hundred Islands, its highest policy-making body, has declared 26 ha of the island a restoration zone. It includes the Cathedral Island, Lopez Island, Marcos, Socol and a part of Quezon Island.

Described as a "degraded habitat," the area will be under strict protection from fishing and other human activities. Specifically prohibited and punishable activities are anchoring and mooring of boats, dumping of any waste and extractive activities like fishing and hunting.

The resolution imposes penalties for violations that range from payment of fines to imprisonment. It also carries a provision that penalizes anyone for "mere possession of any plant or animal or products derived" from the restoration zone.

The establishment of the restoration zone reinforces another rehabilitation project being undertaken by the PTA with the University of the Philippines' Marine Science Institute.

Called the marine biodiversity enhancement program, it was started two years ago and involved the establishment of a giant clam ocean nursery and the reseeding of the area with sea urchins and other invertebrates.

The program also involved the rehabilitation of coral reefs through transplanting. About 8,000 giant clams are now in the islands, says Jesusito Vicente, a marine biologist of the PTA. A full-grown giant clam measures about a meter.

Vicente says snorkeling will still be allowed but it will be controlled and supervised.

The Task Force HINP Eco-Tourism Development was also organized. It is a collaboration between the PTA and other agencies like the Alaminos police, Philippine National Police-Maritime and the Philippine Coast Guard. It is tasked with safeguarding and protecting the national park from illegal fishing and demarcating the marine sanctuary and recreational areas with bouys.

Tourist concern

A major tourist concern at the HINP is high boat rental. To reach the island, one has to take a 30-minute boat ride from the PTA visitor area in Barangay Lucap, 5 km northwest of the Alaminos town proper.

A boat that can carry 15 people is rented out for P700. This covers shuttle service from Lucap to the island and the trip back.

For tourists who want to move around and do island hopping, overnight rent is twice as much. Smaller boats that can carry four to five people are rented out for P400.

De la Cruz says boat rental rates have been a major issue. To resolve this, the PTA is finalizing rules and regulations governing the accreditation of motorboat operators and establishing guidelines in boat rental rates.

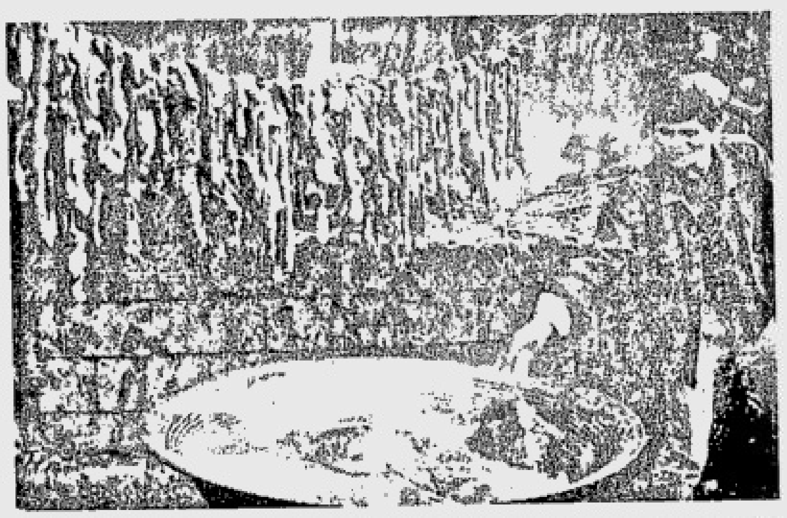
She says it is likely that the current rates will be adopted, but the rules will likely prohibit boatmen from exacting higher rates.

At present, there are about 50 boats operating in the park belonging to the Hundred Islands Motorboat Association, which is accredited with the PTA. Boatmen hope for an equitable rate, claiming that what they charge is not really high.

Horses play central role in Ibalois' lives

By Vincent Cabreza
Baguio City

DAWN broke through the solemn wake of departed Ibaloi accountant Wright Molintas Sr. on Nov. 7, casting thin shards of light upon a young horse standing in the middle of a crowd.



THE 'KINUDAY' (smoked meat) are among the delicacies served in a death ritual of the Ibalois.

EV ESPIRITU

Family elders had spent the whole evening chanting the life story of Molintas, 78, before an open fire. Molintas, a former Benguet provincial treasurer, was the father of Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas.

At about 4:30 a.m., the elders led out the horse for traditional blessing, provoking a hushed silence among the mourners. The relatives appeared to whisper a prayer to the animal. Slowly, the horse was pulled to a corner where it was hacked in the head with an axe.

SACRIFICE animals, referred by the Ibalois as 'opo,' are prepared during Molintas' burial

EV ESPIRITU

"The prayer was actually for my father. They asked him to accept the horse for his journey to (the mythological home of the gods at Mt. Pulag, the country's second highest mountain)," said human rights lawyer Jose Molintas, one of Wright's sons.

The Molintas burial *cañao* (ritual feast) is one of the rare rituals the indigenous Filipino group reserves for the Ibaloi *karangga* (affluent) or its nobility.

"The horse is unique to Ibaloi culture, and this is where the horse plays a central role in our lives," Jose explained.

The most recent horse sacrifice documented in Baguio City was offered to the elder Molintas' wife, Mandy Mencio, who was buried in January 1999.

Molintas had always loved his horses. As a teenager, he found life relevant when he was able to breed horses and cattle for trade to itinerant horsemen and in the marketplaces of Benguet and Nueva Vizcaya.

During his school years, he nurtured an interest in veterinary medicine because of his passion for horses and cattle, before settling for a career as a government accountant.

Spiritual companion

So it was inevitable that a horse would also become his spiritual companion on his way to Pulag, Jose said.

The unusual *cañao* for the affluent requires the butchering of a pair of cattle or carabaos, nine pairs of hogs and the final sacrifice of a sturdy horse or "*sakayan* (vehicle)."

Less affluent spirits "walk" to the mythic realm, Jose said, which defines the importance of a horse in a spirit's journey back to the gods.

The horse is unique to Ibaloi culture

Historian Eufronio Pungayan said the horse's status in Ibaloi lore has always defined the tribe's future.

He said the development of the famous Benguet cowboy between 1922 and 1968 should be credited to the presence of horses in the Cordillera.

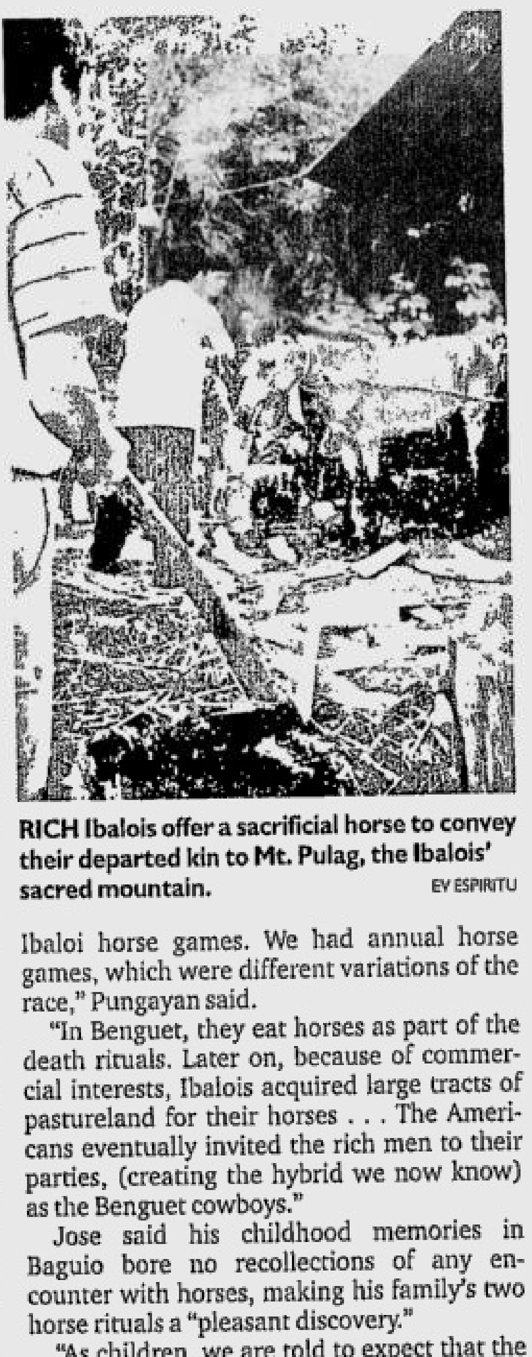
Today, Ibaloi residents still carry remnants of actual American movie cowboy gear that was popular during the 1950s. These artifacts include wide-brimmed hats, chalecos, checkered shorts and burly leather boots.

Baguio and Benguet continue to sustain country-western taverns. A radio station in Baguio plays country-western music, and the city's top tourist attraction is a long line of horses at Wright Park.

Most contemporary historians trace these artifacts to the incursion of American colonial soldiers at the turn of the 20th century.

"When the Americans came, they discovered we already had horses, so all the country-western influences you see in the Ibaloi are rooted in an indigenous horse culture," said Pungayan.

"When the Spaniards came to La Trinidad, it was a community of horses. We had the first horse races . . . We also had the music, which had the same melody and melancholy as the frontier cowboys. We also had lassos. I have traced some lasso techniques to ancient Ibaloi horse games. We had annual horse games, which were different variations of the race," Pungayan said.



RICH Ibalois offer a sacrificial horse to convey their departed kin to Mt. Pulag, the Ibalois' sacred mountain.

EV ESPIRITU

"In Benguet, they eat horses as part of the death rituals. Later on, because of commercial interests, Ibalois acquired large tracts of pastureland for their horses . . . The Americans eventually invited the rich men to their parties, (creating the hybrid we now know) as the Benguet cowboys."

Jose said his childhood memories in Baguio bore no recollections of any encounter with horses, making his family's two horse rituals a "pleasant discovery."

"As children, we are told to expect that the horse would take us to Mt. Pulag. My aunties always grilled us about this, although I was never particularly used to horses," he said.

"But when my father took us once to Ambuklao (also in Benguet), we had to ride horses and that was where we realized how beneficial the horse was to the culture."

GMA praises Dante Ang for quitting P1-a-year job

From page A1

DANTE ANG

ident, in preparation for the 2004 elections.

Ang submitted his irrevocable resignation to Malacañang yesterday after an earlier "candid discussion" with the President, who agreed that his resignation would be "mutually beneficial" to them.

"Out of delicadeza, I am resigning to put an end to the official ties between the Office of the President and this citizen, and to dispel insinuations that this person has abused such relationship for personal gain," Ang said during a press conference at the Manila Times office.

The personal public relations man of Ms Macapagal since 1993, Ang said he could more effectively serve the President as a private citizen without the hassles of an official title.

It was only last April that the President conferred on Ang the official title of senior PR consultant only in April this year.

Recruitment

Kampi should be up and running in 30 days, Ang said, after he goes around the country to update the membership of Kampi and rebuild the loose group of local and national politicians who support the party.

Ang said he would be recruiting party workers and talking to politicians. He said at least six governors have expressed their solidarity with Kampi, but he said he has yet to work on personalities in national politics.

Founded in 1997, Kampi was the original party of the President, designed as the vehicle for Ms Macapagal's presidential bid in 1998 before she conceded to be House Speaker Jose de Venecia's running mate in the '98 presidential polls.

Ang stressed that he was "not campaigning or politicking" this early but merely "strengthening the grass roots" of Kampi, which he said completely supports his decision to quit so he can attend to the party full time.

Prove it

Tiglao dismissed reported claims by the political opposition that while Ang has resigned his official position, he will continue to be the top man in the making of President Macapagal's public image.

"They'll have to prove it," Tiglao said. "We have a press secretary that handles the President's publicity needs."

Asked later after the briefing whether Ang's resignation is considered a loss in the President's communication's team, Tiglao said: *"Hindi naman."* (Not really).

Ang is reportedly one of five members of the in-house Palace communication team which includes Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, Anthony Abaya and Mr Mike Arroyo.

Just a PR man

"I am a PR (man), not a political animal," Ang said when asked how he would counter allegations that he resigned to focus on Ms Macapagal's presidential bid.

"As a private citizen, I think we should all involve ourselves in

politics. We are on the crossroads. If we make a mistake in 2004 . . . " Ang trailed off.

Ang also said his decision to quit was to protect the integrity and future of his business interests, as well as that of his family.

Ang recently bought into BankWise, a thrift bank that has been accused by a group of foreign retirees of withdrawing or diverting around P16 million in their peso and dollar deposits to Seed Capital Inc., which now owns controlling shares in BankWise.

"I have endeavored to make all my personal, official and business activities transparent, honest and ethically scrupulous," Ang said in his statement.

"My conscience tells me I have succeeded. But some mercenaries in and out of politics would have it otherwise," he said.

Misnomer

Tiglao described as a "misnomer" the usual reference to Ang in the media as the President's "private publicist."

Tiglao said that a publicist takes care of the media and publicity needs of a particular person and such do not apply to Ang's relationship with Ms Macapagal.

Tiglao maintained that the President's publicity needs are being addressed by the Office of the Press Secretary and not by Ang.

The President accepted Ang's resignation "with regrets" and thanked him for services rendered, according to Tiglao.

"The President wishes him good luck in his civic affairs and business projects," Tiglao said. "She hopes that these will redound to the benefit of the country."

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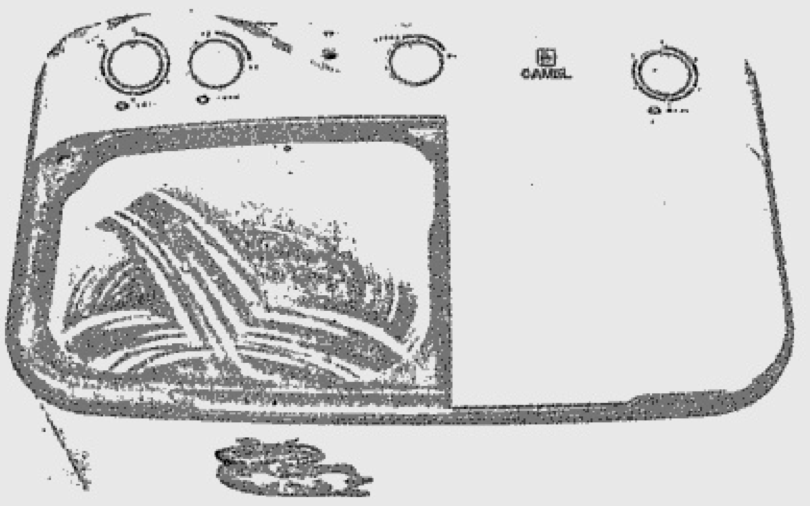

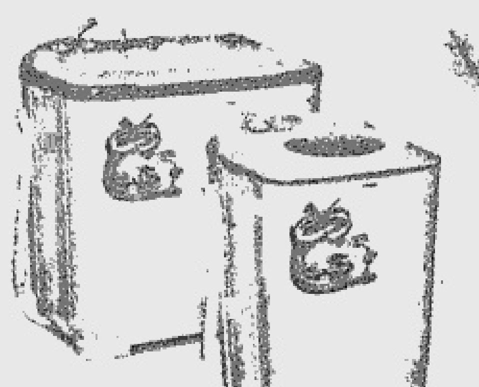

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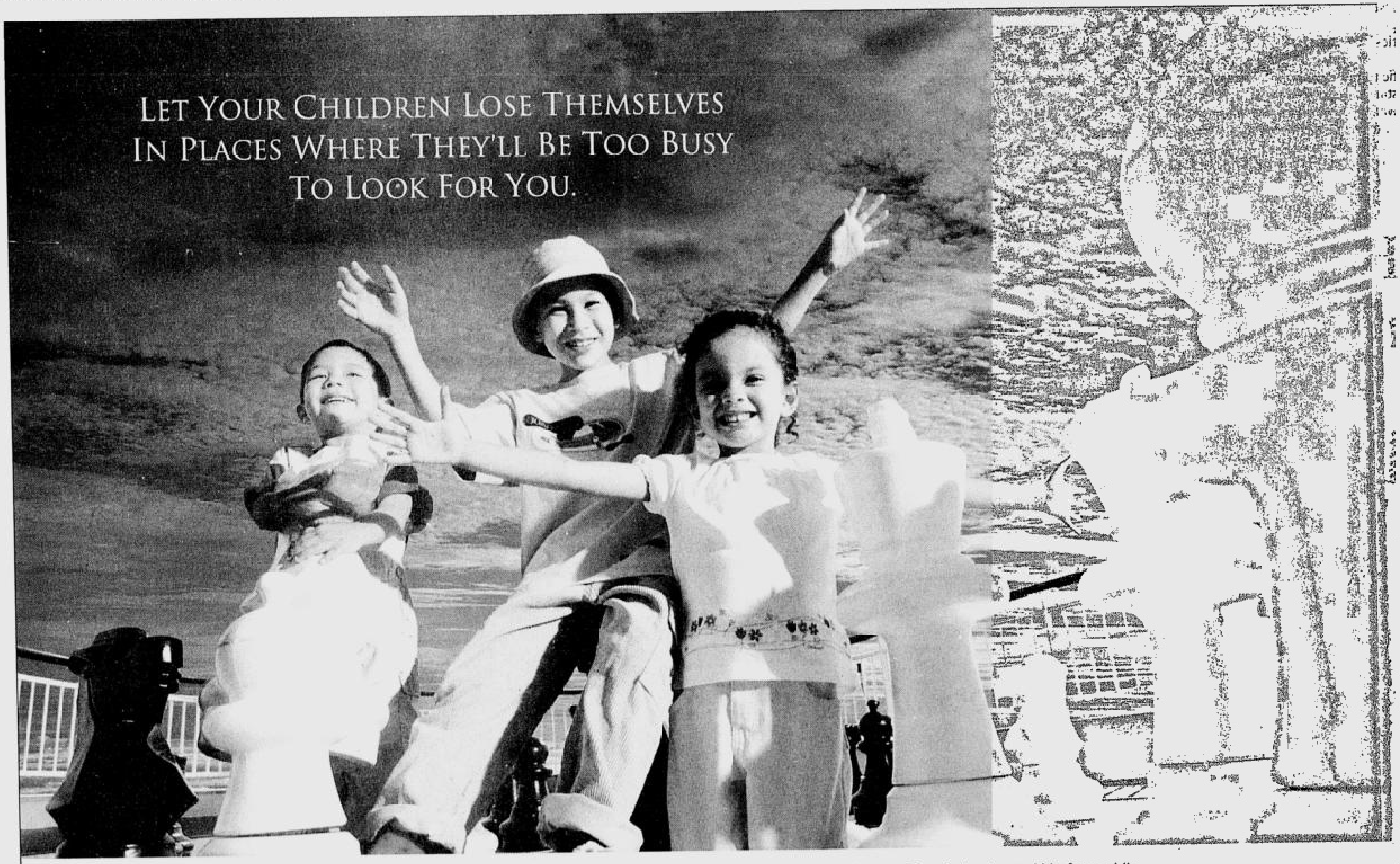
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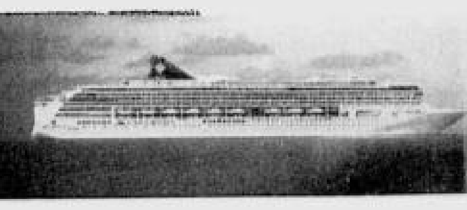

All passengers of Flight 585 accounted for

From page A1

a British national, were found trapped inside a portion of the plane's wreckage that remained under water.

Members of Voluntary Service Overseas, a British nongovernment organization, confirmed that one of the newly-recovered bodies was that of Minh Nguyen, a British engineer of Vietnamese descent who was working with the NGO here. The bodies of his parents, Thuan and Julia Nguyen, were recovered Monday.

"Our retrieval efforts are finally over," Lista told reporters. "I'd like to thank everyone who helped, especially the fishermen (who first arrived at the crash scene and rescued some passengers). They are the real heroes."

President Macapagal-Arroyo personally checked on the progress of the salvage operation and briefly met with some of the victims' relatives.

TOO late, but Laoag Air's LED 3318 and a Fokker 27, the same model that crashed on Monday and which had figured in at least four accidents the past five years, is finally grounded at the Philippine Aviation Hangar as ordered by the Air Transportation Office. ROGER MARGALLO

The plane was carrying 34 people and airline officials said 15 — including the Fokker 27's two pilots — survived Monday's crash. They initially said 16 people survived, but revised the number after mistakenly listing one of the dead as alive.

Seven Australians and three British nationals were among those aboard the flight, and only two of the Australians survived.

Coast Guard personnel tried but failed to lift the plane's main wreckage from the murky waters with two giant cranes. Salvage operations were called off at nightfall and would resume Wednesday morning.

Lista said his recovery team hoped to bring up the tail of the plane today to recover the black box, which would provide details about the cause of the crash.

The plane's pilot, Capt. Bernie Crisostomo, watching a cartoon show on television when the Inquirer visited him yesterday morning in his room at the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Pasay City.

A day after the crash, Crisostomo didn't want to know what happened from the newspaper, radio or television.

"I will fly again," he told the INQUIRER.

Crisostomo, 42, was one of two pilots detained and grilled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at the Seattle-Tacoma international airport last year on suspicion that he and his companion were bioterrorists. He was eventually cleared, but he was banned entry into the United States and his tourist visa cancelled.

But the pilot did not want to establish any connection between his Seattle misfortune and the crash of the twin-engine Fokker 27 plane.

"I don't consider (the crash) bad luck . . . It was just an accident," said Crisostomo who had previously described as "a bad omen" the incident in Seattle.

LaoagAir apology

For his part, Capt. Paul Ng, owner of LaoagAir, apologized to the crash victims, saying nobody wanted the tragedy to happen.

"We are very sorry for what happened. This can happen to anybody and this can happen to any other airline in the Philippines and anywhere in the world," he said at a press briefing in Laoag City.

Ng said the company's action team in Manila had been extending assistance to the crash victims and their families.

"We are trying our best and our action team will try its best to help in anyway we can," he said..

Ng said he wanted to issue a statement immediately after the crash but that he was in a state of shock and needed medical attention.

"I wanted to leave for Manila last night (Monday) but my doctor advised me to first fix my condition before I take the trip. My blood pressure shot up to 180/120," he said. *With reports by Christian Esguerra and Cristina Arzadon/PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Ivatans mourn dead

By Juliet Cataluna
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BASCO, Batanes—Ivatans are in mourning following Monday's crash of the Basco-bound Laoag International Airline Fokker plane in Manila Bay. Seven Ivatans died in the crash while seven others, including Basco Bishop Jose Salazar, survived.

Gov. Vicente Gato declared Tuesday a day of mourning throughout the province. The provincial government also sponsored a Mass at the Basco Cathedral for the crash victims.

The Philippine flag in the capital town was at half-mast to pay respect to the victims.

Gato said the Ivatans are a closely knit people who always help one another in times of need. He directed his staff at the Ivatan Center in Diliman, Quezon City, to extend assistance to the victims, most of them are confined at the Ospital ng Maynila and the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Manila.

LaoagAir has offered to take care of the burial arrangements, including transport of the victims to Basco.

Gato said he would also ask the Philippine Air Force to help bring the victims home.

The seven Ivatan fatalities were Jomer Dierra (Basco), Earl John Fajardo Rada (Basco), Josefina Fajardo (Basco), Cheryl Fajardo Rada (Basco), Nestor Bernal (who was married to an Ivatan from Itbayat), Normita Mata (Uyugan), and Jefferson Mata (Basco).

The Batanes residents who survived were Bishop Jose Salazar, Nolly Dierra (Itbayat), Nemia Castillejos (Basco), Maria Fitero (Basco), Mariane Poncio (Basco), Wulfildo Alviso (Mahatao), and Carl Barcelona (Ivana).

Provincial officials said they are still verifying if survivor Epifania Reyes is a resident of Batanes. Another survivor, Tessie Bugarin, is based in Batanes.

The INQUIRER learned that there were passengers listed in the manifest who did not board the plane. Among them were Victor Blanquera, Ana Blanquera, Ellen Villarta, Linda Maala, Peter Rada, Caridad Viola and Jennifer Fabi.

Villarta, Maala and Fabi arrived in Basco on Monday afternoon after taking a plane of Chemtrad, the other airline servicing Batanes.

Bernardo Fajardo, husband of Josefina Fajardo and father of Cheryl Rada, said he was shocked by the loss of his family which included his grandson Earl John Rada.

Survivor Carl Barcelona, grandson of former judge and mayor Vicente Barcelona, was coming home to attend the wake of his father who died on Sunday.

Also on Flight 585 was Barcelona's son-in-law, Wulfildo Alviso, who is now recovering at the Ospital ng Maynila. His five daughters and another grandson would have boarded the plane but were not accommodated at the last minute.

Probers focus on engine failure

From page A1

mind who could have sabotaged his aircraft, Ng hinted that it could be his business rivals.

"If you notice, we have opened so many new routes in Manila in the last two months," he replied. The Malaysian, who is married to an Ilocano, did not elaborate.

But Yap said investigators were focusing on engine failure. "We think we know the reason. We have the video tape and the pilots are still alive. So this investigation should go quickly," he said.

The ATO, which formally opened its investigation of the crash on Tuesday, is expected to summon Ng later this week. All LaoagAir planes, however, have been grounded while the investigation is going on.

Yap said Capt. Joseph Gardiner, the co-pilot, appeared yesterday before the ATO board.

"He (Gardiner) said that he saw smoke on the right engine shortly after the aircraft took off. There was a loss in power of the right engine. When the engine stopped, it automatically feathered," the ATO chief told reporters.

Feathering refers to the twisting of an engine's propeller blades to reduce drag on the aircraft's affected wing. If the right engine stops, the plane veers to the left.

Yap said the pilots did not have the time, speed, altitude and power needed to safely ditch the plane at sea or make a safe landing at the nearby reclaimed area.

"An aircraft has to attain a certain speed for it to safely land ... Otherwise it would fall like a rock if its engines staffed," an ATO official explained.

The INQUIRER contacted Capt. Bernie Crisostomo, the plane's pilot, at the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Pasay City where he was recuperating. But he refused to talk about what he described was "an accident."

"I'll tell everything I know," he said. "I'll tell everything I know in due time. I'll wait until I've recovered and authorities have finished their investigation."

Yap told reporters that executives of the British company Rolls Royce and Fokker were arriving last night to help the ATO in its investigation.

The investigators, however, are pinning their hopes on the plane's "black box" flight recorders.

Vice Adm. Reuben Lista, commandant of the Coast Guard, said salvage teams could have the entire plane raised by Wednesday.

Lista said his recovery team hoped to bring up the tail of the plane to get the black box, which would provide details about the cause of the crash.

The tail, which had broken off from the rest of the plane during the crash, had earlier been hoisted by a crane but it slipped from the line and sank back into the mud at the bottom of the bay, Lista said.

The aircraft broke apart and sank in about 15-20 meters of water. Divers w3ere hampered by mud churned up by the wreckage.

Senate probe

At the Senate, Sen. Vicente Sotto III accused LaoagAir of reneging on its commitment to Congress that it would bring in newer aircraft when it was granted a franchise to operate in April 2001.

"We should study the possibility of revoking the franchise based on what they said two years ago when we were hearing their application for a franchise," said Sotto who was the chair of the Senate committee on public services then.

In a Senate hearing on Oct. 9, 2000, Ng said LaoagAir was seeking a franchise "so that I can invite more foreigners to come in and spend more money here and so that I can provide better service."

Sotto also recalled that LaoagAir promised to modernize its fleet within the next five- years, replacing its aging Fokker planes with "newer and better" aircraft.

LaoagAir has been operating since 1995 on the strength of a certificate of operation from the ATO. The certificate was issued in accordance with President Fidel Ramos' Executive Order No. 219 encouraging small airlines to operate in so-called "missionary routes," or destinations that do not have regular volume of passenger traffic.

The Senate committee on public services, now chaired by Sen. Joker Arroyo, has been asked to investigate the crash to determine whether LaoagAir violated Congress' trust when it was awarded a franchise and recommend whether this should be revoked.

Top of the line

In his press briefing, however, Ng said the aircraft that crashed into Manila Bay was a "top-of-the-line Fokker" made in 1978. He said the aircraft had notched only about 16,000 flying hours.

"The worthiness of an aircraft is measured by its flying hours. One aircraft can fly up to 75,000 hours. The aircraft that crashed flew for only 16,000 hours, (it was) a very young aircraft," he said.

Ng denied accusations that his aircraft was outdated and unfit for commercial aviation, saying ATO conducts routine check on his planes.

"If my 22-year-old plane is obsolete, what about those aircraft that are now flying in Manila, which are around 40 to 50 years old? And they are still flying and still in good condition," he said.

Ng said he was operating four planes of the Fokker-600 series that were bought in New Zealand, England and Oman.

Ng said Fokker planes were far safer than the other planes flying at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila.

"There are still more than 150 Fokkers flying all over the world, including (the fleet of) the Philippine Air Force. They are very safe compared to the planes in Manila," he said.

Ng took exception to reports that described his planes as "flying coffins," saying even President Macapagal-Arroyo used to ride on his planes during her sorties to Ilocos.

"Even (Ilocos Norte) Gov. (Ferdinand) Marcos Jr. takes our plane every now and then, almost every week or month," he said. *With reports from Rocky Nazareno, Christian Esguerra, AP and AFP*

Lawmaker . . .

From page A1

Bank in Hong Kong.

Villarama challenged Perez to send the National Bureau of Investigation to Uruguay and Hong Kong to investigate the accounts.

Like Lacson

In his statement, Villarama asked Perez to send NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco and military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus to track down the account.

He said Wycoco and Corpus were "supposed to be experts in ferreting out and tracking down bank documents that would reveal secret bank accounts as they supposedly did in the case against Lacson."

Villarama said he delivered the speech after Perez asked him, through the media, to name names. Villarama had earlier told another newspaper that a Cabinet secretary received $2 million from a crony of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

"Now here comes the honorable Secretary of Justice feeling alluded to and perhaps out of pique, challenging this representation to name names," Villarama said.

Villarama said that after seeing some documents relating to the said payoff, he came to the "conclusion that the answer to this question (what's in a name) is money—and lots of it."

In a statement, Villarama said he was "ready to name the Cabinet official" after he has obtained the bank documents and other evidence linking him to the payoff.

Villarama said a businessman-friend of his tipped him off about the latter's friend, also a businessman, who was "victimized, ripped off and extorted by this multimillion-dollar man."

Villarama declined to name the two businessmen.

Chase Manhattan

He referred to two documents, including a fax from the Chase Manhattan Bank of New York supposedly sent to the "victim's" house. The fax stated that the money should be deposited in the account of Coutts Bank (Schweiz) AG Hong Kong in favor of Acct. No. HO 13706.

The second document was a "payment detail report" from the Trade and Commerce Bank of Uruguay showing the transfer of $1,999,965 to Chase Manhatttan Bank to the account in Coutts Bank.

It was reportedly the same account exposed by Sen. Panfilo Lacson earlier as belonging to Perez.

Villarama said he almost succeeded in convincing the person who paid the bribe to come out in the open and tell all.

"Except that my friend's friend would like to exact a condition, a guarantee, for his exposure of the abominable and bottomless greed of the multimillion-dollar man," Villarama said in his speech.

He said this person is supposedly asking Perez to "enrol him in the (WPP) which must guarantee him the continued warmth of his tongue—meaning, that he will live through this ordeal which was not of his own making."

Perez's son

Some congressmen listened intently as Villarama delivered his brief speech. But nobody rose to interpellate or ask questions.

Batangas Rep. Frank Perez, the Justice secretary's son, arrived just as Villarama was speaking.

He was seen shaking hands and conversing with Villarama after the speech.

Perez shrugged off the issue, saying Villarama did not name his father as the multimillion-dollar Cabinet man.

But Perez said he wanted to know who was the person wanting to be admitted to the WPP.

He claimed he does not know who Villarama was referring to.

"I'd like to know," Perez said.

This PMA mistah is a beauty in grey

From page A1

The 16 Miss Asia Pacific contestants went to the PMA for a series of video footage that would market the city's tourism highlights. It was their first provincial tour since arriving in the country on Monday.

Cacho, a member of the fifth batch of female cadets enrolled at the academy, said her acceptance as a military officer-in-training was part of the new gender-sensitive world of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Like many female cadet candidates, Cacho underwent a special entrance screening conducted two years ago by top military officers, who needed to fill up their batch quota of 26 females.

The fair-skinned Cacho credits her selection to a good pageant background. She was a perennial pageant candidate in a Daet high school.

Not all smiles

"From my experience, it's really hard work joining a contest like (Miss Asia Pacific). (Being a pageant contestant) is not just all smiles and practicing for the show. It's character-building. You have to get along with everyone, and you have to learn (to live) with the character of other people," she said.

"(As a pageant contestant, I learned to develop) my self-confidence. The tendency in beauty pageants is to blank out (on stage). You have to have enough confidence in yourself to be able to go through it without stumbling or (fumbling what should have been) the right response to a question. You sometimes have the right idea but you just can't say it," Cacho said.

"(Females) received more screening than (male candidates), and the AFP actually went for the more outgoing persons," she said.

But being "pretty" in the academy is still an "acquired taste" for its male population, Cacho acknowledged.

"If I walk by (a group of cadets today), no one's going to say, 'Oooh, she's walking by.' No one in the PMA will do that. We have to live a more regimented life," she said.

The contestants who mingled with the cadets were Liu Yang (China), Shirley Sandoval (Costa Rica), Aishwarya Sukhdeo (Fiji), Dina Dalby (Guam), Tina Chhatwal (India), Kim So-Yun (Korea), Alexandra Sakamoto (New Caledonia), Jennifer Fon (Peru), Ksenia Volkova (Russia), Julia Lim (Singapore), Nishadika Javawardene (Thailand), Ozge Ulusoy (Turkey) and Miriam Chui (Philippines).

Unless directed to stand in formation or to sidle up to a candidate, Cacho's mistahs (classmates) stayed away from the candidates.

They were very "excited" about the visit, Cacho said.

"The way we're treated here (at the PMA) is we're one of the boys. We have to act and do certain things that are not (stereotypically) female. You have to be strong. You have to run with them. You can't complain if you're in pain," she said.

But Cacho said her tour at the academy was still a far cry from the experiences of her predecessors—the first female cadets of PMA Class 1997.

The first two batches of female cadets endured the prejudices of a male-dominant institution and tolerated a constant battle of wits with their male counterparts.

Rich, aging hippies . . .

From page A1

have been processed.

"They are peaceful people," Sinalei Resort owner Folasaitu Annandale told Televise Samoa.

"They are seeking health and peace." The secretive group of artists, who usually congregate in the Caribbean, has taken over the resort for a year, forcing other tourists out of the up-market remote beach setting.

Rumors that shipping containers containing explosives had been landed here last week swept the Pacific but Folasaitu said they contained fireworks for a Christmas display.

Samoa is an avowed Christian state with little experience of other religions or lifestyles and the artists' yoga exercises have led to speculation they are Muslims.

"They have actions which appear as if they are worshipping Allah, but no, their actions are for exercise," Folasaitu said.

Peace, happiness

Speaking two months after they arrived, he said they were not a religious group but artists seeking true peace and happiness through meditation and yoga.

They were artists, musicians and painters, who did not take tobacco, drugs or alcohol.

They selected Samoa because it was far from disturbances in other countries, he said.

"And they are definitely not Muslims. They are not a nudist group. And they are not terrorists.

"And how do I know? We have done our own checks. Government also does its own checks when the people apply for visas to come here."

All the containers brought in by the group have been checked by Customs, Folasaitu said.

"These containers are full of their personal effects, their furniture." Folasaitu said the gates of the resort are kept locked to allow his guests to enjoy the peace they came for.

Secretary for the Prime Minister's Department Va'asatia Poloma confirmed that checks on the guests have been done through the FBI and Interpol.

Va'asatia said this was partly as a result of the huge media interest in the group's activities. "So far everything has checked out," Va'asatia said.

Local media say the resort has been hired for a year for around 6.0 million tala (US$2.5 million). *AFP*

Yorac: ₱2-B payoff probably by PLDT

From page A1

"While the PLDT is not mentioned in the letter, we assumed on the basis of our reading of documents from the Sandiganbayan, the Supreme Court and others that this might refer to PLDT because Mrs. Marcos actually intervened in the PLDT case before the Sandiganbayan," Yorac said.

She recalled that when the PCGG wanted the widow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos to explain her ownership claim, she refused to testify.

"She just made herself scarce when we wanted her to testify," she told reporters before the hearing started.

Yorac said the PCGG did not know for certain if the reported settlement pertained to PLDT but added: "Your natural inclination when you look at the billing statement is (to think) that it refers to PLDT."

"We hope the Supreme Court will compel her to explain her intervention in this case," she said in the hearing.

Form letter

Marcelo told the INQUIRER on Monday that the undated letter, which prompted the PCGG to request the Bureau of Internal Revenue to investigate Mrs. Marcos for additional tax liabilities, was indeed part of their records.

But he said that it was just a form letter regarding proposed payment schemes that they submitted to Mrs. Marcos and which was eventually rejected.

While the tenor of the letter assumed that a particular settlement had already been struck, Marcelo claimed otherwise. The "strictly private and confidential" letter was addressed to "Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos c/o Greggy Araneta." Araneta is the former first lady's son-in-law.

Marcelo clarified in a phone interview that he and colleague Eleazar Reyes submitted this letter to Mrs. Marcos "when she was referring cases to us" some four years ago. He said that the letter made no reference to any particular case.

Marcelo explained that his law firm handles several criminal cases and civil cases filed against the Marcos widow. This includes Civil Case No. 0002, which the PCGG filed in 1986 and which includes PLDT shares sequestered by the government.

The law firm is headed by former Marcos-era Defense Minister and ex-Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

"There is no settlement on the PLDT case," Marcelo said, adding that Mrs. Marcos' cross-claim on PLDT had already been dismissed.

If Mrs. Marcos would insist on filing it, Marcelo said, she would have to pay P450 million as filing fee." Where will she get the money? She doesn't have that amount so she did not pursue the case," he said.

Marcelo then asked why the defendants from the estate of Ramon Cojuangco, Prime Holdings Inc., and Imelda Cojuangco—reportedly the party who paid Mrs. Marcos—would bother to settle if the cross claim had already been dismissed.

But another lawyer familiar with the case said it was still possible for Mrs. Marcos to pose a legal threat to the Cojuangcos. The source, who asked not to be identified, also said the document signed by Marcelo and Reyes was no form letter. It did not look like it came from a standard template, the source said.

The letter's first paragraph read: "We have agreed to base our 5% attorney's fees on only 75%, instead of 100% of the settlement amount. Please find enclosed our revised schedule of payment."

A PLDT executive closely identified with Cojuangco, Al Tengco, told the INQUIRER: "I am not aware of any settlement between Imelda and Cojuangco. I have no participation whatsoever. As far as I'm concerned, there has never been any such a transaction between Imelda and Tonyboy."

Follow-up work

Yorac told reporters that the PCGG was doing "follow-up work" on the reported P2 billion settlement.

She said the commission would inquire into the parties who made the deal. But she said she found no reason for the PCGG to go after Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco, son of Ramon Cojuangco and now chair of PLDT.

"All they will do is to deny it," she said.

PCGG Commissioner Grace Pulido Tan said she was told by BIR officials yesterday that it had acted on the PCGG's request to go after the settlement for tax purposes.

Tan said if such a settlement happened, the government would be entitled to 32-percent income tax from Mrs. Marcos, and the same rate from her lawyers and the party who paid her the settlement.

"If the BIR gets to the bottom of it, that's a lot of money," she said. The BIR should take the lead role in this issue because of its tax component, she added.

She disagreed with the comment that the Marcoses had put one over the PCGG.

"If there was in fact a settlement on the PLDT (case), if at the end of the day the courts will decide that the Republic owns PLDT, then that settlement will be set aside," Tan said. She said the government will go after the party who settled with Mrs. Marcos.

On Monday, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said he would ask the Bureau of Internal Revenue to follow up on the PCGG's request. If the reports about the P2-billion settlement are proven true, Camacho said, the government would be able to pursue a more aggressive tax collection campaign on the Marcos estate.

"I will ask BIR Commissioner (Guillermo) Parayno to check what the BIR had done since the first request of the PCGG (Presidential Commission on Good Government) to follow up the P2-billion settlement in June," said the finance chief.

He said the taxes due the government in relation to the reported settlement would help shore up the BIR's dismal revenue collection this year. *With a report from Clarissa S. Batino*

She received cash in computer boxes

From page A1

puter boxes" sometime in December of last year to deliver the money. The "contents" of those computer boxes were then transferred to two black suitcases with roller wheels, "which (Imelda) brings along with her."

Meeting over lunch, the loyalists said the "two ordinary-looking black suitcases with wheels" was used to shuttle the contents between the Pacific Plaza Building in Makati City where the former first lady lives and the San Juan mansion of the Marcoses.

The so-called breakaway group of Marcos Loyalist Headquarters founder Cherry Cobarrubias, writer and former broadcast journalist Rita Gaddi, businessman Anthony Violago and Nonoy Escolin was joined by another former close aide of Marcos, Babsy Anonas, and a sixth loyalist who requested not to be identified in the meantime.

Violago asked: "If she has no money, how come she is using a BMW 7-series bulletproof service (car) which is estimated (to cost) P15 million?"

Aside from the brand-new BMW, the former first lady also uses a Mercedez Benz E-class sedan for her security back-up.

"We know she has money and we challenge her to tell the truth for it is she who always says, The truth shall set her free, " Cobarrubias said.

The group said the first tranche was paid in December, amounting to P200-million. Escolin and paralegal assistant Edwin Lamarca were reportedly the ones "instructed" to conduct confidential missions related to the settlement.

"The lawyers fee as pre-arranged was P75 million, but Mrs. Marcos upon receiving the first tranche wanted to reduce it to just P25 million," a supporter said. The group stressed that they were "insiders" in the settlement issue, not mere spectators.

They called Imelda "a traitor to the legacy of the former strongman, the late President Ferdinand Marcos."

Imelda's problem

The lunch was sponsored by another former Imelda ally who did not wish to be identified.

"The problem with her is that when she got the money, she thought we're after her money when in reality we were there for her when she didn't have a penny in her pocket," said Anonas, holding back tears.

Escolin said "it pains him to talk about this in public" because he said he has high respect for the children of Imelda, especially Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos." He said his relatives have tried to prevent him from further exposing the "real Mrs. Marcos" in public.

"But this should come out, for the sake of the truth and for my peace of mind," said Escolin, who is a nephew of former Supreme Court Associate Justice Venecio Escolin.

"*Nahihiya ako kay* Bongbong, we're like brothers, but this is not about them, this is about their mother and the lies she has peddled all these years," Violago said.

"Our loyalty was given to her for free, now she puts a price tag on our friendship with her. That's so typical of her," said Gaddi, who during the meeting got a text message from a publisher interested in the tell-all book she is editing.

Cobarrubias said, "There's one word to describe what she demonstrated to us the minute she got her money but I won't even say it. We have voluntarily loved her and there's no price tag to that loyalty, not even her P2 billion."

The INQUIRER tried to reach the former first lady through her spokesperson Lito Gorrospe, but was told that Imelda was still in Laoag. But she will "answer all the allegations point by point" in due time, he added.

Disenchantment

The P2-billion settlement that Imelda reportedly entered into to resolve the PLDT ownership dispute is at the root of the loyalists 'disenchantment with the former first lady.

The loyalists' accounting of the settlement jibed with the "schedule of payment" attached to the letter of lawyers Armando Marcelo and Eleazar Reyes and addressed to Imelda. *(See banner story.)* A copy of the letter and attachment was leaked to the Presidential Commission on Good Government and to the INQUIRER in June and May.

Cobarrubias pooh-pooed the denial made by Marcos and her lawyers. "It would be best if they would just admit it," she said.

Informed about Marcelo's denial, she said, "There are too perfect coincidences here."

"What I know is that there are no coincidences here," she said.

In the schedule of payment, the lawyers supposedly would get P75 million, in all, also in five tranches. *With a report from Donna Cueto*

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Did you know? Effective August 1, 2002, Mabuhay Miles replaces both PALsmiles and Mabuhay Club as Philippine Airlines' integrated frequent flyer program. Existing members will be transferred to their corresponding membership levels (Elite, Premier Elite or Million Miler) and receive new membership cards by mail.

mabuhay MILES

Vintage Imeldific: The only democracy is this world is God

From page A1

loyalists, friends and even relations, but just remember there is a God. There is a god in everyone. The only democracy in this world is God," Marcos told an audience composed mainly of young athletes, parents and teachers.

"God is in all of us. All we have to do is share it, paint it, nurture it, give it and you will never fail and you will never miss anything. You will fulfill everything. Because if God is on your side, who can be against you?" she said.

Mrs. Marcos was guest at the opening ceremonies of the Ilocos Norte Athletic Association at the request of her nephew, Michael Keon, the Gintong Alay coordinator during the time of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and now the provincial government's sports consultant.

The Marcos widow, who flew to Ilocos Norte with her eldest daughter Rep. Imee Marcos last Sunday, was supposed to have joined the congresswoman's birthday celebration in the province yesterday.

But the younger Marcos returned to Manila on Sunday night after hosting a pre-birthday dinner at the Marcoses' ancestral house in Batac.

Mrs. Marcos said she was turning to God amid all the persecution and vilification being heaped on her.

"For the last 17 years, the Marcoses were widowed, orphaned from our country, even persecuted not by individuals but governments and superpowers. We were alone, widowed and orphaned. Even the Bible says there's a special place in hell for those who oppress widows and orphans," she said.

The Marcoses' spokesperson, Lito Gorospe, earlier said everything seemed normal with the former first lady despite the revelations made by former Marcos loyalists led by Cherry Cobarrubias and Rita Gaddi.

"As you can see, (she's gracing this affair). I don't think she wants to answer any of those (claims about the real Imelda). But she's been reading all the reports (in the INQUIRER)," he said.

The Marcos widow said there was nothing more she could ask for because she had led a good life.

"I have been given a big life by the world. The best, best things the world could offer I was blessed with. And the worst, worst things, too, I have been given," she said.

"There was an attempted assassination, I have been convicted for 43 years imprisonment for building the Philippine General Hospital without government funds. I have 417 cases in the Philippines alone. The biggest claim in the history of mankind is from the Marcoses (worth $43 billion), bigger than the $32-billion budget of Marcos of 20 years. Name it and I had it," Mrs. Marcos said.

She turned nostalgic when she recalled that as a little girl, she dreamt of building a small house with a little picket fence by the sea.

"Little did I know that I would live in Malacañang Palace for more than 20 years and in all the major palaces of mankind," she said.

Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan Jr., a known Marcos loyalist and political ally, said the Marcoses' former rabid supporters turned their backs on Mrs. Marcos because they needed money.

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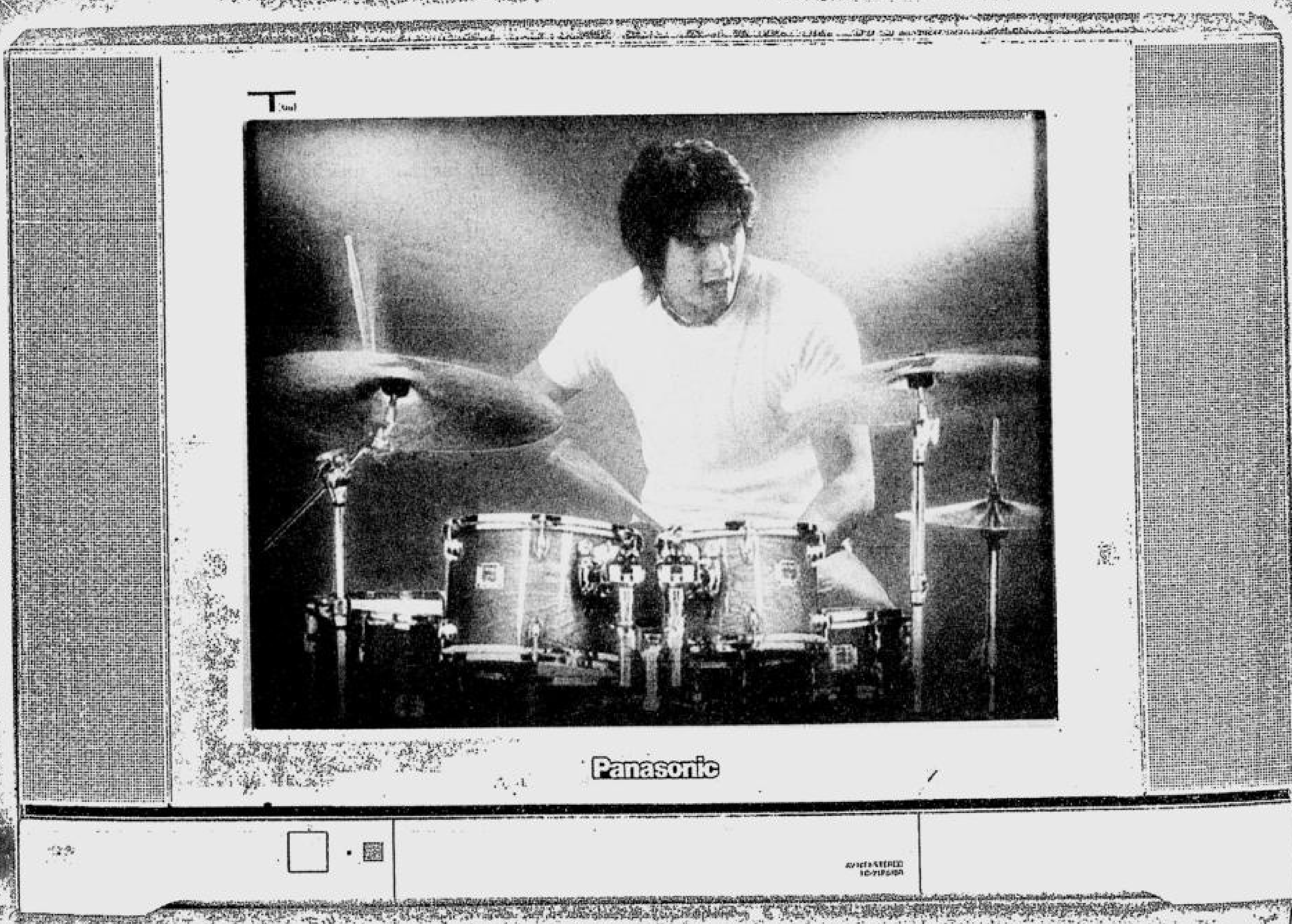

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SPORTS

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Nowitzki, Stackhouse cited

NEW YORK—German forward Dirk Nowitzki, who scored at least 24 points in the Dallas Mavericks' last three games, was named Player of the Week for the NBA's Western Conference on Monday. Washington's Jerry Stackhouse won the honors in the Eastern Conference. *AP*

PBA COMMISSIONER

Board wants Bernardino to stay

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE SEARCH for a new commissioner is proving to be hard and given the chance, the PBA board of governors would like to see Jun Bernardino stay longer at his post.

"The board wishes that commissioner Bernardino remains but he has already made his decision. The board respects the decision of one of the pillars of the PBA," said PBA chair Butch Alejo.

Alejo, Bernardino and Rep. Monico Puentevella guested in yesterday's PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn.

Alejo said it's proving to be very difficult finding Bernardino's replacement. Bernardino's tenure will end on Dec. 31.

"I'm hoping that we can come up with Jun's replacement before he steps down by the end of the year. But the search can extend till next year," said Alejo, also president of Purefoods.

Bernardino, who is stepping down due to health reasons, has already told the board his willingness to help during the transition period. Alejo said that in case the board fails to find a new commissioner, Bernardino's deputy Sonny Barrios will act as officer-in-charge.

"We have to follow a procedure in searching for a new commissioner. We have to ask individuals whether they are willing to take up to the post," said Alejo. Alejo added that from a list of 10 probables, they will have a short list of four names.

He also said the board has enlisted the help of an "executive headhunter" to hasten the selection process. "We've seen names from the newspapers and with the exception of one or two names, the others have not formally signified their intention to get the job."

Alejo confirmed that among those in the list of candidates are Barrios, Rey Gamboa, Elmer Yanga, Noli Eala, Chito Narvasa, Tommy Manotoc, businessman Tito Panlilio and Chot Reyes.

Alejo also described the league's new salary cap as a call of the times. "The economic downturn resulted to this new cap. We want to be sensitive to the needs of the players and their families. When things improve in the future, the board will review the fairness of the cap."

Bernardino said he is looking at the cap as "temporary" depending on the state of the country's economy.

Bernardino also commented on Jojo Lastimosa's allegations regarding the players' trust fund. Lastimosa earlier claimed that the fund has reached P60 million, a figure hotly disputed by Bernardino.

Bernardino said the fund which started with a P100,000 seed money from former commissioner Leo Prieto is now P14 million. The fund is designed to provide scholarships for children of ex-pros and former pros.

"I don't know where Mr. Lastimosa got his figure," said Bernardino.

PBA chair Butch Alejo (center) and outgoing Commissioner Jun Bernardino (right) listen as Rep. Monico Puentevella stresses a point during yesterday's PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn.

BETOY JOHNSON

Players' association seeking seat in powerful PBA body

By June Navarro

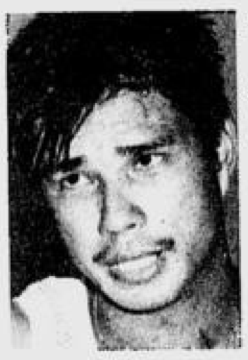
THE PBA Players' Association yesterday vowed to take a solid, unrelenting stance once the league's team owners rejected its plea for a seat in the PBA Board of Governors.

Alaska's Jojo Lastimosa, spokesperson of the players' union, said they would solidify their ranks and do something drastic the moment the board of governors turns its back on their request.

"But I hope it wouldn't come to that because we believe everything could possibly be solved through dialogue," Lastimosa told the INQUIRER.

Reacting to the players' plea for a representation in the board, PBA chair Francisco "Butch" Alejo said the players' group has yet to submit a formal position presenting its request for the board to tackle.

"There's no official position coming from the players for the board to take up," said Alejo during yesterday's PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn Manila.



LASTIMOSA

Lastimosa said the players' official proposal would come in later, immediately after Sen. Robert Barbers started conducting the Senate's investigation on the alleged "Fil-shams" in the PBA to be held within the week.

"We will then hold a general meeting and map out our next move," said Lastimosa, stressing that unity would be the key factor for the player union's success.

In reaction to reports insinuating the board's distaste on installing a seat for the union, Lastimosa said the players would take a common stand.

"They own the league. But we're the ones being watched by the fans. It is but proper for us to have a voice within the board," he said.

Lastimosa pointed out that the best compromise for the board and the players is to find a common ground and meet halfway, a move which he stressed would be beneficial to both parties.

"They (team owners) just can't impose something we don't want. We have the right to resist if the rules are against us. That's what we're fighting for," said Lastimosa.

"*Hindi kasi kami* solid *kaya ganoon na lang ang trato nila sa amin.* (They are exploiting us because we're not solid)," a player, who requested anonymity, said.

Streaking Tigers face Express today

STANDINGS	W	L
Red Bull	4	0
Coca-Cola	3	1
San Miguel	2	2
Talk N Text	2	2
Alaska	2	2
Purefoods	2	2
Ginebra	2	2
Sta. Lucia	2	2
Shell	1	3
FedEx	0	4

GAMES TODAY (*Philsports Arena*)
5:30 p.m.– FedEx vs Coca-Cola
7:30 p.m.– Purefoods vs Alaska

By June Navarro

THE COCA-COLA Tigers are on a hot streak and they intend to keep it that way against the FedEx Express today in the Selecta-PBA All Filipino Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Since yielding to the Batang Red Bull Thunder, 76-70, three Wednesdays ago, the Tigers had beaten their opponents with ease.

Coach Chot Reyes and the Tigers manhandled the Shell Turbo Chargers, 80-52, routed Purefoods, 83-58, before slaughtering the Barangay Ginebra Kings, 85-63, Friday night at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Against the Express in the 5:30 p.m. opener, the Tigers are expected to keep their sizzling form as the Bert Lina-owned franchise has yet to taste victory after four tries.

Most of those setbacks, however, were almost won games that had gone mad just like the one that happened barely a week ago.

Champions League

Yesterday's results:
SSC 106, PSBA-QC 102 (2OT);
Ateneo 75, West Negros 70

Spring wins again

CEBU CITY—Reigning national champion Spring Cooking Oil posted its second straight victory in the CBL (Cebu Basketball League) Invitational Cup tournament Monday by beating University of the Visayas, 87-80, at the Cebu Coliseum here.

Rodel Manuel capped his long-game brilliance with a huge slam dunk to lead coach Tito Palma's Cooking Oil masters to the easy triumph.

Four other Spring cagers—Mar Reyes, Tyrone Bautista, Lito Saygo and Marphil Limbo—ably supported Manuel with 12, 11, 11 and 10 points, respectively.

M. Lhuillier matched Spring's 2-0 card by crushing sister team ML Kwarta Padala, 99-84, while University of San Jose-Recoletos Jaguars bounced back from an opening-day loss to whip Forward Taguig, 99-82.

CELTICS
34
OSTERTAG
00
McCARTY

BOSTON Celtics Paul Pierce (34) dunks for two of his game-high 35 points over Utah Jazz Greg Ostertag while teammate Walter McCarty watches. The Celtics prevailed, 112-95. AP

Mavs thump Blazers for 7th straight win

DALLAS—Dirk Nowitzki scored 26 points and had a season-high 17 rebounds as the Dallas Mavericks beat the Portland Trail Blazers 82-73 Monday to remain the NBA's lone unbeaten team.

Dallas improved to 7-0, extending the best start in franchise history. The Mavericks turned a 13-point second-quarter deficit into a 12-point lead by the end of the third quarter.

Nowitzki started a 21-3 run with consecutive 3-pointers.

Michael Finley capped it with a fadeaway jump shot at the buzzer that he punctuated by running and jumping his way back to the bench, arms flailing. He finished with 21 points.

Nowitzki also set a career-high with six steals and Finley had eight rebounds.

Rasheed Wallace led Portland with 14 points and Arvydas Sabonis had 10 points and 10 rebounds. The Blazers were without Bonzi Wells, who was suspended without pay for one game for spitting on San Antonio forward Danny Ferry on Friday night.

Warriors 108, Grizzlies 101

In Memphis, Tennessee, Antawn Jamison had 37 points and 11 rebounds as Golden State beat winless Memphis.

Erick Dampier had 18 points and 16 rebounds, while Troy Murphy added 18 points for the Warriors. *AP*

Complete results:
Boston 112, Utah 95; Golden State 108, Memphis 101; Dallas 82, Portland 73; San Antonio 91, Minnesota 75.

3 Breeders' Cup bettors court-bound

WHITE PLAINS, New York—Three former fraternity brothers being investigated for a suspicious Breeders' Cup bet worth $3 million are headed to federal court.

Derrick Davis of Baltimore, Glen DaSilva of New York and Chris Harn of Newark, Delaware—who all went to Drexel in the 1990s—have been summoned to the US Courthouse in White Plains on Tuesday.

US Attorney James Comey scheduled a news conference for Tuesday about whether the computer system that handled the Oct. 26 Pick Six bet was manipulated to ensure winning tickets.

The Daily News reported Monday that the men would be charged with wire fraud conspiracy. Wire fraud statutes apparently would apply because the elaborate Pick Six bet was made by telephone on Davis' account with Catskill Off-Track Betting, a Pomona-based division of the state OTB system.

Herb Hadad, a spokesman for Comey, would not confirm charges on Monday, saying no complaint had been filed. *AP*

'The Rock' retires

DUBLIN, Ireland—Rock Of Gibraltar, winner of a record-breaking seven successive Group One races and fast-finishing runner up in last month's Breeders Cup Mile, has retired to stud, his owners announced on Monday.

Part-owned by Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson and trained at Ballydoyle, Ireland, by Aidan O'Brien, the 3-year-old colt has been retired to Coolmore Stud. *AP*

Raiders set NFL marks

DENVER—The Oakland Raiders turned Monday Night Football's anniversary celebration into a record-setting show for their old folks.

With 36-year-old Rich Gannon completing 21 consecutive passes and 40-year-old Jerry Rice becoming the first player to score 200 career touchdowns, the Raiders broke a four-game losing streak by beating the Denver Broncos 34-10.

Rod Woodson, 37, extended his own career record of interception returns for touchdowns with a 98-yarder in the first quarter that sent the Raiders on their way.

The win on ABC's celebration of its 500th Monday night telecast brought Oakland (5-4) within a game of the Broncos (6-3) in the American Football Conference West.

Along with scoring two touchdowns for a total of 201, Rice broke Walter Payton's record for total yardage.

Gannon, who had struggled as the Raiders dropped to 4-4 after starting 4-0, completed 29 of his first 30 passes.

His 21 straight completions set a record for one game, breaking the mark of 20 by Ken Anderson of Cincinnati set on Jan. 2, 1983. *AP*

Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occ. join 2005 SEAG bidders

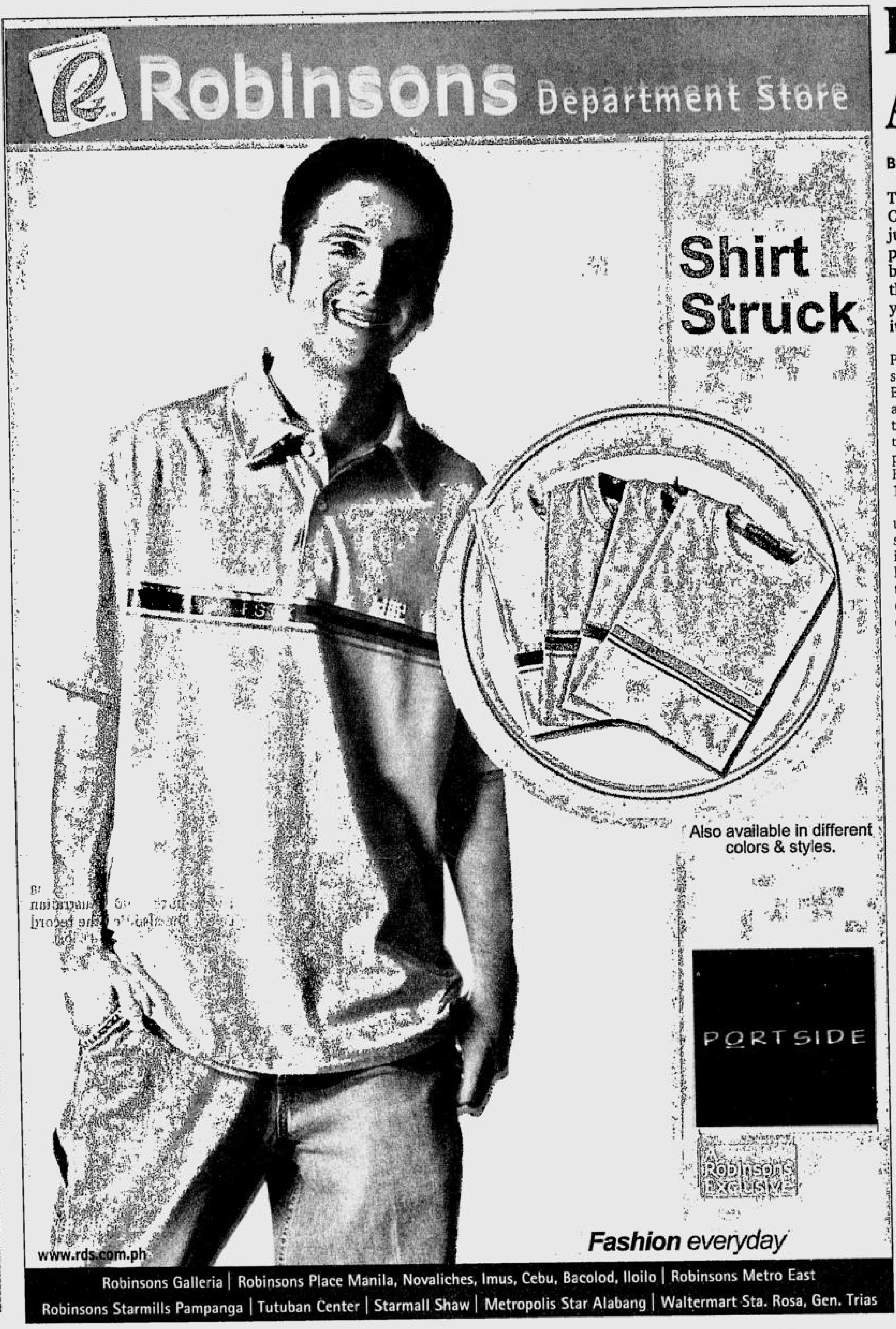
TWO major sports complexes in Mindanao, the world-class Mindanao Civic Center in Tubod, Lanao del Norte, and the Sinanduloy Sports Complex in Misamis Occidental, are preparing to bid for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

This was bared yesterday by Lanao del Norte Gov. Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo, whose province is set to host the 2003 Palarong Pambansa at the P500-million Mindanao Civic Center.

The two sports complex will soon be linked by the 1.9km Panguil Bay bridge, whose construction is under way.

Nestled at the mouth of the scenic Panguil Bay, the Mindanao Civic Center can soon be reached by athletes coming from Misamis Occidental and Zamboanga del Sur through the proposed bridge that would cut across the bay's 250-square-hectare expanse.

Dubbed as the Bridge of Peace, its construction was initiated in 1969 by former Lanao del Norte Gov. Sultan Mohammad Ali Dimaporo.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PSC to justify Asiad expenses

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission will have to justify its Asian Games expenditures as well as its budget for next year when the House committee on youth and sports resumes its hearing today.

Rep. Monico Puentevella yesterday said PSC chair Eric Buhain is set to make a presentation on how the agency spent for the country's campaign in Busan, South Korea, and in the past 11 months.

BUHAIN

PUENTEVELLA

Buhain was scheduled to make the presentation during the initial congressional hearing last Oct. 23 but the meeting dragged on till late afternoon as discussion focused on the concerns of the different national sports associations.

However, PSC officials said Buhain is set to fly to Puerto Princesa, Palawan, today to oversee the preparation being done for the 4th Batang Pinoy-Philippine National Youth Games slated Dec. 1-7.

Buhain can't be reached whether he will attend the 1:30 p.m. hearing.

Still, Puentevella said the hearing is pushing through and that Buhain's presence will be vital for the committee's budget recommendation for the sports agency.

The Bacolod congressman added that the PSC must also present its proposed budget next year as well as draft new policies to improve its disbursement of funds to the sports associations.

Also expected to be at the hearing are Philippine Olympic Committee officials, NSA presidents and sports figures, who also graced the previous hearing.

The PSC reportedly received P105 million from the General Appropriations Act. However, the Department of Budget and Management recently decided to make cuts amounting to P30 million starting next year.

The move is reportedly made to compensate for the funds the agency is getting from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, which increased its assistance from P22 million in the time of former chair Butch Tuason to P39 million when Buhain took over.

Dayrit furnishes Go copy of appeal letter

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit yesterday furnished athletics boss Go Teng Kok a copy of his appeal to the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games organizing committee to include marathon in the 2003 SEAG.

To prove that the didn't back down on his task to defend all the national sports associations, Dayrit showed Go his letter to Prof. Hoang Vinh Giang, vice president and secretary general of the Vietnam Olympic Committee.

In the letter dated Oct. 31, Dayrit asked Giang to reconsider men's and women's marathon events and even suggested possible routes in Ho Chi Minh City and manner with which the events would be staged.

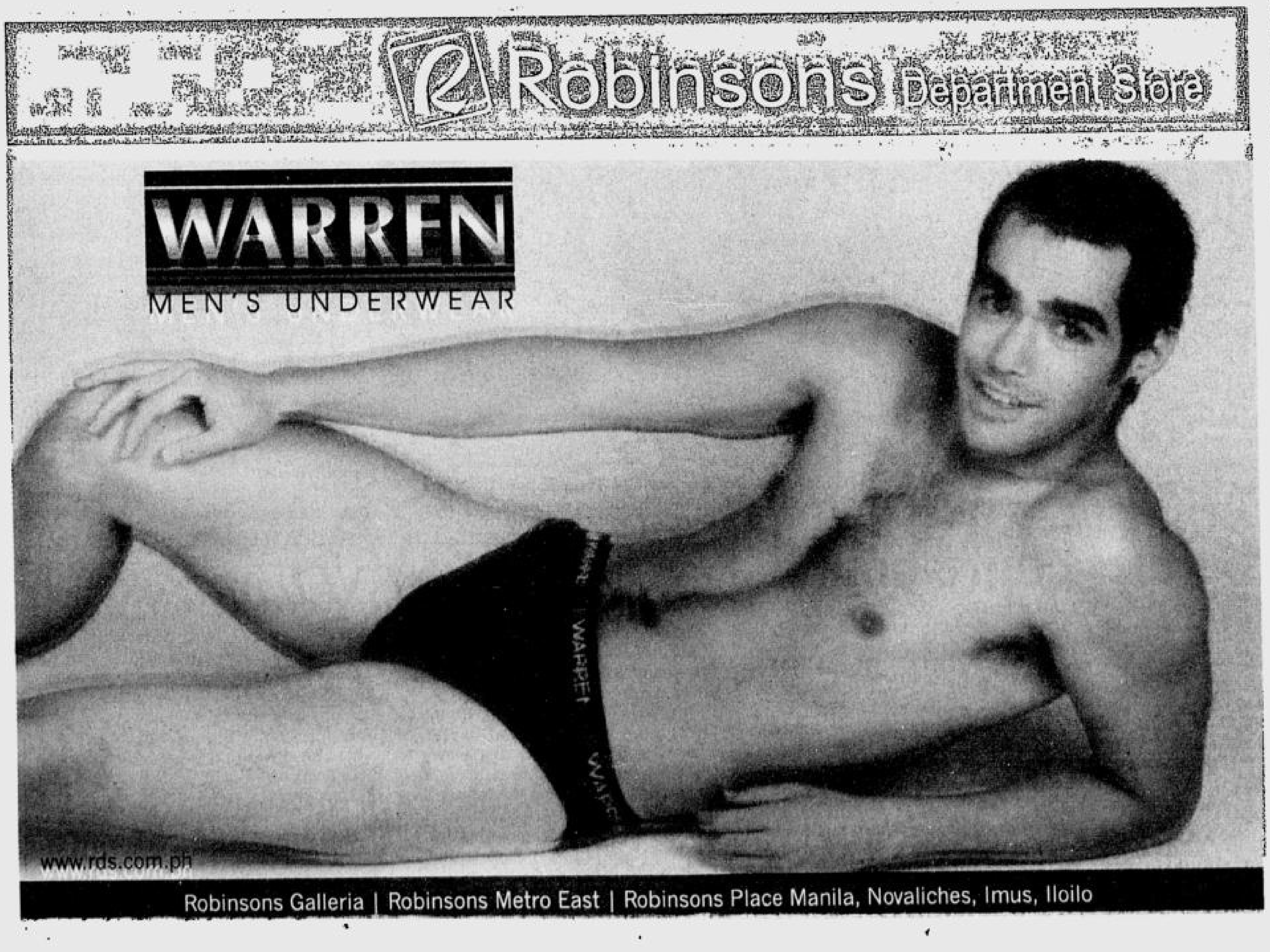
Dayrit, who earlier wrote a similar letter in behalf of golf and bowling, was compelled to write another letter vouching for marathon after Go's emotional plea to include the marathon events where the Philippines is the defending champion.

Vietnam SEAG organizers earlier ruled out marathon due to lack of funds and technical knowledge, prompting Dayrit not to include marathon in his first letter of appeal.

In his letter to Giang, Dayrit suggested that the marathon races be held on the same day, using the same route as the 20km road walk.

"Men can start running five minutes ahead of the women, starting at the stadium, then making a U-turn at the end of the 20km route to again finish in the stadium," Dayrit wrote in his letter.

Marc Anthony Reyes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CHAMPS
Mayenn Ordoveza (above), first female heavy tackle angler of the year awardee, and Robert Chan of Atlanta Industries Inc. emerged champions of the recent Calatagan fishing event.

The 'Bull' strikes back

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

WHEN basketball people talk about the remarkable recent success of Batang Red Bull, they invariably say the Photokina franchise is on a roll hitting the aces in the ongoing PBA All Filipino Conference. It is now sporting a commanding 4-0 win-loss record, preserving the solo lead last Sunday by eking out a nerve-frazzling 75-74 overtime victory over defending champion San Miguel Beer and boosting its bid to add the All Filipino title to its back-to-back PBA championships.

Coach Yeng Guiao's charges have surprised many aficionados because Red Bull, which retained its Commissioner's Cup only last month, was not expected to perform well in this All Filipino since several PBA teams, including recent champions Sta. Lucia and Purefoods, succumbed to pressure after winning a championship, leading to miserable performances in their succeeding games, something which did not happen to the Thunder team.

"In fact the players are even working harder than ever before during our regular practice," said 42-year-old Guiao. "They know there is no substitute for hard work."

Nelson Asaytono, the original "Bull," is one example.

"Nelson knows that hard work pays off," said Guiao. "He worked real hard in practice and played awfully hard to win our games that's why I am rewarding him with ample playing time."

A PBA veteran, the 6-foot-4 Asaytono who once played for Swift and San Miguel Beer, sweated it out and trimmed his weight to a fighting 235 pounds. During last Sunday's cliffhanger against San Miguel, the 34-year-old Asaytono showed flashes of his old brilliance by scoring 16 big points, 12 coming from triples, including the insurance basket in the last 18 seconds of the overtime period.

Checkmate elims kick off Nov. 17

THE SECOND elimination series for the selection of the members of the 2003 US-bound Milo Checkmate team kicks off on Nov. 17 at the Greenhills Shopping Center former's fishing wharf in San Juan, Metro Manila.

Open to Milo Checkmate kids who are currently enrolled, the tournament is divided into three age-groups: 10 and under; 12 and under; and juniors (13-18 years).

The tournament will employ the five round Swiss system and time control of 60 minutes per player in selecting the top three finishers in each group who will join the other qualifiers in the semifinals set in December.

The first set of qualifiers are : 10 and under--Haridas Pascua of Pangasinan, Jan Nigel Galan of Valenzuela and Emmanuel Elijah Songcuya III of La Salle Greenhills; 12 and under--John Robin Buenavista of Notre Dame, Joshua Kirk Ver and brother Justin Keith, both of Don Bosco Mandaluyong; 13 above--Jed Pornobi of Diliman Preparatory School.

PCA OPEN NETFEST

SBC, La Salle bets prevail

ONE-SIDED victories marked the start yesterday of the 21st Philippine Columbian Association Open Tennis Championship at the PCA outdoor courts.

Nestor Celestino Jr. of San Beda defeated Juancho Botor, 8-1, and Jandrick de Castro of La Salle-Greenhills swamped David Bonifacio, 8-0, to lead the first-round winners in the men's singles.

Celestino will next meet national junior champion Irwin de Guzman while De Castro will face Martin Temblique, an 8-6 winner over Jun Magpali.

Menandro Econg, Danilo Olosin, Dennis Perida and Reynaldo Laroya also won their matches to advance in the next round of this event presented by Dunlop and Accel, with support from Chowking, Photokina, PBCom, San Miguel Corporation, Coca Cola, PVL Restaurant-Little Lawrence, Tobys, Copacabana, Trans Asia and the Philippine Star.

Econg beat Alexander Temario, 8-2, Olosin nipped Jerry Javier, 8-6, Perida outplayed Macoy Ginoo, 8-3, and Laroya trounced Giovanni Morte, 8-2.

Other winners were Aguel Buday, Garizaldy Caabay, Noel Mendoza, Jovan Divinagracia, Edu Manzano, John Amita, Edward Larriosa, Michael Mantua, Renato Tarroza, John Sabado, Victor Magno, Ronaldo Milan, Crisostomo Dalisay and Carlito Rojo.

Meanwhile, there will be a photo contest sponsored by Agfa during the tournament. Winners get P10,000 (first), P8,000 (second), P6,000 (third), P4,000 (fourth) and P2,000 (fifth) while sports editors will receive the same amount.

The PCA Open, billed as the most prestigious and the longest-running netfest in the country, is the biggest this year with a record 766 participants, including 216 in the team tennis category.

A total of P400,000 is at stake with the men's singles champion getting P80,000. The women's singles winner will receive P30,000, the men's doubles P18,000 and the women's doubles P8,000.

BELGIAN Kim Clijsters holds the Billie Jean King trophy after beating top-seeded US player Serena Williams, 7-5, 6-3, yesterday in the WTA Championship final. AFP

Thai overwhelms Korean

MONTINEE Tangphong of Thailand rallied past Seo Soon-mi of Korea, 6,3, 3-6, 6-3, yesterday to advance in the main draw of the $10,000 Union Cement ITF-Philippines Women's Circuit 2 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Tangphong, ranked No. 877 in the world, played in the qualifying of the $170,000 WTA event in Pattaya last week.

Zsuzsanna Babos of Hungary, Kim Kilsdonk of Netherlands and Diana Julianito of Indonesia downed separate rivals to earn main draw slots anew in this event supported by by the ITF Grand Slam Development Fund, Wilson balls, Manila Midtown Hotel and Philippine Sports Commission.

The world's No. 702 Babos, eliminated by wild card Ivanna Israilova in the first round of the first leg last week, scored a 6-1, 7-6 (1) victory over Pichaya Laosirichon of Thailand.

Kim Kilsdonk of Netherlands, beaten in the quarterfinals by first leg champion Sania Mirza of India, outclassed Korean Kim Hae-sung, 6-0, 6-1.

Julianito, Mirza's victim in the second round, posted a 6-3, 6-0 win over compatriot Evelina Rusdianto.

Other winners were Lyoo-suh Hae-sur [illegible] Korea over Orawan Lamangthong of Thailand, 6-1, 6-2, Zhang Yao of China over Patricia Mayr of Austria, 6-4, 6-2, and Lam [illegible] Kuen of Hong Kong China over Sung Eun-hee of Korea, 6-3, 7-6 (6).

Filipino wild cards Czarina Mae Arevalo and Patricia Santos try their luck again in the main draw which begins at 9 a.m. today. Both were first-round losers last week.

Russia Olympic chess champ

BLED, Slovenia—Russia's men's team won the gold medal in the Chess Olympiad on Sunday, taking four quick draws against Yugoslavia to secure a win over second-place Hungary.

In the women's section, China secured the gold by thrashing Bulgaria, 2.5-0.5, while Russia grabbed the silver by beating Slovakia by the same score. Poland took the bronze medal by annihilating Vietnam, 3-0, and favorite Georgia fell to Yugoslavia, 2-1.

Russia's first board, Garry Kasparov, the world's top-ranked player, said the result "shows that Russian chess isn't in decline," referring to Russia's loss to "The Rest of the World" at a match in Moscow in September.

Russia has now won the men's gold medal in every Olympiad, held every other year, since the breakup of the Soviet Union.

As soon as the Russians observed the early draw on board one of the China-Hungary match, they offered draws on all boards, which the Yugoslavs accepted. This mathematically guaranteed Russia the gold.

Hungary would probably have taken early draws in all of their games but the Chinese needed a high score to keep their hopes alive. Their attempts to win backfired and China went down, 3-1.

Armenia won the bronze with a strong 3-1 victory over Georgia, which had entered the round a half-point ahead of China and a full point ahead of Armenia.

Bonds unanimous pick for 5th MVP

NEW YORK—Barry Bonds is winning Most Valuable Player awards so fast and so often, he doesn't know what to do with them.

"All my trophies are in storage. I don't have a house big enough," Bonds said Monday after winning the National League MVP for a record fifth time. "I happen to have a little house in San Francisco. I've been living out of storage for the last eight, nine years now."

Bonds, the only baseball player with more than three MVP awards, won it unanimously for the first time. The San Francisco Giants outfielder received all 32 first-place votes and 448 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

"I'd rather win the World Series, but this is great. I'm very happy about it, very excited," Bonds said Tuesday in Japan, where he is on the major league all-star tour. "I'm trying to figure out why a 38-year-old player is still playing like this.

"Forget the historical part about MVPs. I'm overjoyed, very happy, very pleased, especially coming off the 73-home-run year, to be able to pretty much stay consistent," he said. *AP*

Clijsters upsets Serena in 2 sets

By Beth Harris
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES—Belgium's Kim Clijsters stunned top-seeded Serena Williams, 7-5, 6-3, to win the season-ending WTA Championships on Monday, handing the American only her fifth loss of the year.

Williams' 18-match winning streak was snapped largely because of 44 unforced errors, especially with her backhand. She finished with a 56-5 record and ended the year as the world's top-ranked player.

"Kim played really well. She earned the win," Williams said.

Clijsters, a 19-year-old who rose to No. 4 in the rankings, only managed six winning shots to 19 by Williams, but she converted five of 10 break chances in the match that ran for almost 1 1/2 hours at Staples Center in front of 10,232.

"It's been an incredible week for me," said Clijsters, who defeated Serena's sister, No. 2 Venus Williams, in the semifinals, after Venus retired with an injured leg.

Clijsters became the first player to beat both Williams sisters in the same tournament since Switzerland's Martina Hingis in the 2001 Australian Open. She also tied the record for fewest games (14) lost en route to the title. Clijsters earned $765,000 from the $3 million purse.

After a tired Williams barely got returned a forehand, Clijsters rushed the net and put away a forehand winner on match point. She dropped her racket and buried her face in her hands in disbelief. Clijsters then fired a ball into the crowd and gave a thumbs-up sign.

There were seven service breaks in the first set, when Williams led 5-3 before losing the final four games.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Far Eastern University beat Technological University of the Philippines, 2.5-1.5, to bag the team title in the 2nd Carlsberg National Students Chess Olympics. Also today in 1990, Joey Almeda clocked 54.13 seconds to win the slalom Battle of Champions at the Folk Arts Theater parking lot.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA - Toronto vs Orlando, 8 a.m., Solar Sports
TENNIS: Masters Cup (Shanghai), 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., Star Sports
POOL: Rack 'Em Up - John Higgins vs Steve Davis, 4 p.m. (r), ESPN
BOXING: Friday Night Fights, 9 p.m. (r), ESPN
BOWLING: CGU Asian Bowling Tour, 8 a.m. (r), ESPN
BASEBALL: Chinese Taipei vs Panama, 10 a.m. (r - 5 p.m.), ESPN
WRESTLING: WWE Heat, 10:30 p.m. (r), ESPN

SMB-Marho races stake record ₱7M at Santa Ana

MORE than P7 million in prizes will be at stake during the SMB-Marho Breeders' Cup at the Santa Ana Park on Nov. 16-17.

The richest horse racing festival will actually last five days, with the Metropolitan Association of Racehorse Owners, Inc. and San Miguel Beer as main organizers.

Marho president Aristeo "Putch" Puyat said yesterday the racing carnival will officially start today.

"This yearly renewal of the San Miguel Beer-Marho Breeders' Cup is a fitting tribute to the many local horse owners and breeders who have unflinchingly supported the program since its inception in 1995," Puyat said.

San Miguel Beer, the country's premier beer, is once again the major sponsor.

The carnival will be bannered no less by six championship runs and a series of special invitational races.

Touted early favorites are champion galloper Wind Blown in the classic; front running What A Spell in 3 year old fillies; long-striding Free Wind in the 3 year old colts; speed ball Be Quiet for a repeat in the Sprint; a toss-up among undefeated Diktador, Security Master and High Octane in the 2 year old colts and and the 2 year old fillies considered a wide open race for all 5 entries.

The original five championships would be carrying total guaranteed prizes of P1 million each while the Sprint would carry a total bankroll of P500,000.

The PRCI, operator of the Santa Ana Park, will play host anew to the weeklong celebration.

"The management and staff of PRCI would like to thank the Marho for making Santa Ana Park the home of the SMB-Marho Breeders' Cup, which is undoubtedly one of the highlight events in our yearly calendar," said PRCI Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Ramon Ereñeta, Jr.

In addition to San Miguel Beer, the 7th edition of the Marho Breeders' Cup has been made possible through the generous support of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, the Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation and the Philippine Racing Commission.

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U-Bix Riviera Pro-Am today

BERT Bravo is all grit as he hits the ceremonial ball yesterday kicking off the U-Bix Riviera National Pro-Am at Riviera's Couples. Watching are (from left) Bobby Iñigo of SMC, Wack Wack's SP Malbarosa (partly hidden), Mizuno's Benny Gopez, Epson-Konica's Mitsuhiro Hasegawa and NGAP vice president, Vice Admiral Louie Fernandez. JESS YUSON

SILANG, Cavite—The country's top pros return to action today with the staging of the 2nd U-Bix Riviera National Pro-Am at Riviera's Couples.

Some P1 million in prizes for the pros and merchandise for the amateur partners of the winning pros will be staked in the four-day series.

The unique tournament that allows a twosome to hit one ball alternately began yesterday with the VIP-Celebrity Pro-Am.

"Finally, it's on once more," said Bert Bravo, the U-Bix president who bankrolled the event in tandem with Konica Corporation of Japan represented by Mitsuhiro Hasegawa. "May the best team win."

Bravo also financed last year's revival of the Pro-Am after its death in 1995 following decades of editions held at the now-gone Fort Bonifacio golf course since 1966.

Cassius Casas and Bobby Iñigo topped yesterday's Pro-Am with a 74, followed by Edwin Sanchez and Jun Iñigo with an 81.

The net champions were Rodolfo Cuello and Jay Brillantes (63), with Mario Siodina and Benny Gopez (68) edging out PGAP president Jun Bustamante and Vice Admiral Louie Fernandez for runner-up honors.

Prizes were donated by Konica, San Miguel Corporation, Bravo Golf's S-Yard, Epson, Pivo Praha Beer, Riviera GCC, Service Masters, Mizuno and Rowell Group.

"With the aperitiff done away with, on with the real thing," said Briton John Blanch, Riviera's general manager.

Nobody won the brand-new Revo at No. 6 but Toyota Motor Philippines Inc. is staking another car in the four-day series–the Altis 1.8, also at No. 6.

Defending champions Noli Kempis and Don Edwin Vinluan are back in the tournament that is supported by Caffe Appassionato, Pagcor, Cena's, DHL-World Wide Express, Philippine Sports Commission, Master Sports, the soon-to-open Grappa's at Greenbelt and Citgo.

The pro champion gets P138,200 and his partner P34,560 in kind.

Aside from Kempis and Vinluan, other fancied teams entered are Juanito Pagunsan and his son Juvic, Cassius Casas and Alex Ignacio, Cesar Ababa and Philip Tanchi and Caloy Nival and Jun Bernis. *Al S. Mendoza*

Augusta: Still no to women

By Doug Ferguson
AP Golf Writer

JOHNSON

AUGUSTA, Georgia—A green jacket was draped over Hootie Johnson's broad shoulders and the hint of a smile played above his square jaw as he spoke. The chairman of Augusta National hardly looked like someone who felt threatened, even at the point of a bayonet.

As controversy over the all-male membership at the home of the Masters swirled well beyond its green gates, the 71-year-old Johnson was as defiant as ever.

The Masters will be played the second week in April, no matter what, he said, and there is no chance a woman will be a club member by then.

"We have no timetable on the woman member," Johnson said during an hour-long interview Nov. 4. "Our club has enjoyed a camaraderie and a closeness that's served us well for so long, that it makes it difficult for us to consider change.

Right to privacy

"A woman may be a member of this club one day, but that is out in the future."

Johnson's comments were the first on the subject since he fueled the debate with a three-page statement that defended the club's right to privacy, and criticized Martha Burk and the National Council of Women's Organizations for trying to coerce change.

He said in his July 9 letter that Augusta National may some day have a female member, "but not at the point of a bayonet," which has become a slogan of his resolve.

Johnson spoke from his second-floor office, whose walls bear a photo of him and former chairman Clifford Roberts and an original portrait of Bobby Jones painted by President Eisenhower.

He was as unyielding as ever.

'We're right'

"There will always be a Masters," he said. "We will prevail because we're right."

He was adamant in his stance that Augusta National would not cave in to the demands of Burk or anyone else who dares to challenge the constitutional rights of a private club to associate with whomever it wants.

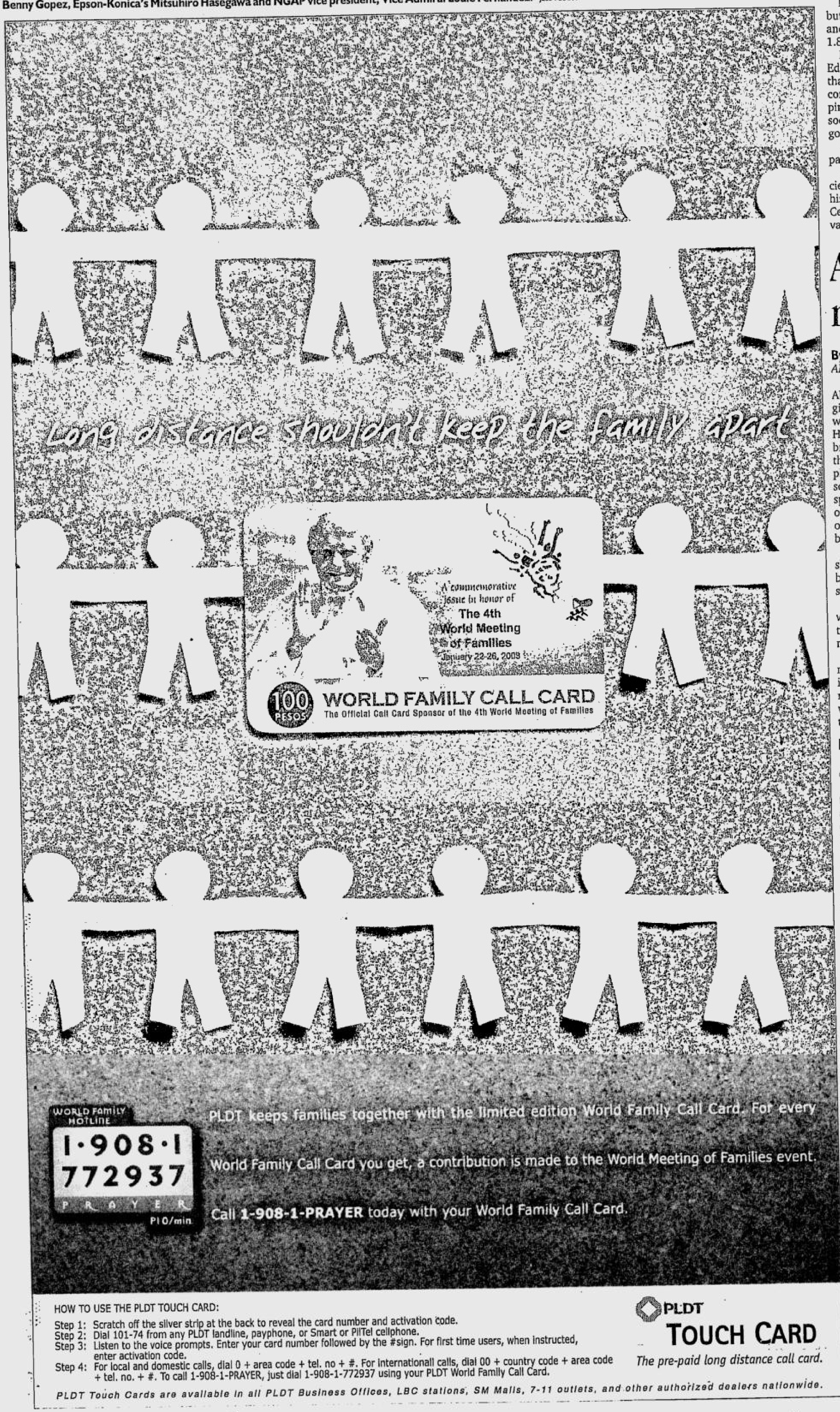
"This woman portrays us as being discriminatory and being bigots. And we're not," Johnson said. "We're a private club. And private organizations are good. The Boy Scouts. The Girl Scouts. Junior League. Sororities. Fraternities. Are these immoral? See, we are in good company as a single-gender organization."

He sees no connection between racial and gender discrimination.

"Do you know of any constitutional lawyer that's ever said they were the same? Do you know any civil rights activists that said it was the same? It's not relevant," he said. "Nobody accepts them as being the same."

Burk doesn't buy Johnson's argument, and she speculated that he spoke out because, "He must be feeling additional pressure from inside the club, PGA Tour sponsors or the players."

"I had sincerely and genuinely hoped it could be settled, and I still hope so," she said.



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Manila curfew starts tomorrow

By Jerome Aning

THE CURFEW for minors in Manila will take effect tomorrow, Nov. 14, from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. Youngsters aged 17 and below will be banned from city streets beginning Sunday, according to the Manila City Council.

The city council yesterday also passed a resolution ordering teachers of public and private schools to inform their students of the overnight curfew for minors.

The councilors said the teachers are in the best position to help educate their students about "the rationale of the curfew."

The resolution requires teachers, especially in public and private elementary and secondary schools, to "adequately inform" their teenage students about the curfew.

The author of the resolution, 6th district alderman Luciano Veloso, said the curfew will keep the youngsters safe in their houses and in their parents' company "during these dangerous times."

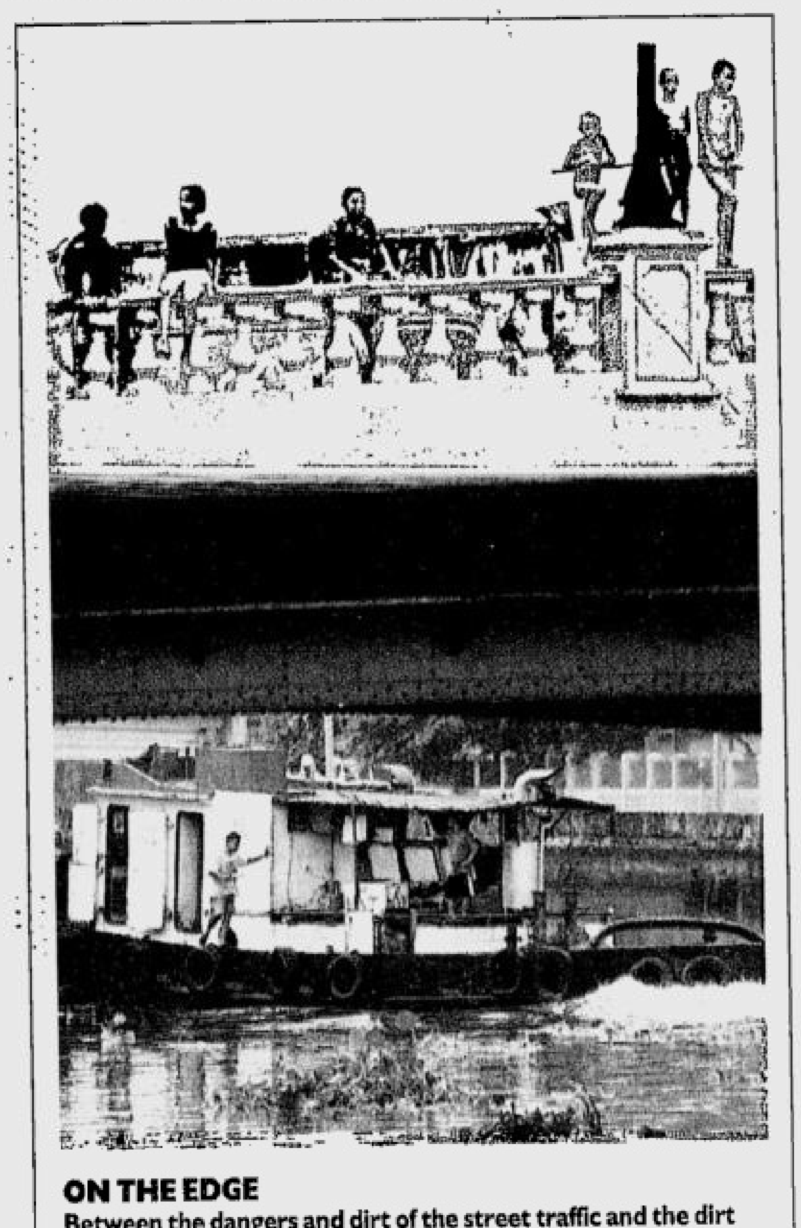
He said the curfew seeks to protect minors from lawless elements like drug pushers and addicts, holdup men, thrill-seekers, gangsters, and rapists roaming the streets late at night and in the wee hours of the morning.

Council minority leader Don Ramon Bagatsing also said enforcing the youth curfew is "a good use of a police officer's time."

He cited a 1997 survey by the United States city mayors' league where 247 mayors, out of the 276 cities that have curfew in place, believe that the curfew helped in curbing crime.

Bagatsing said of the 247 mayors, 236 said the curfew helped make the streets safer for residents, while 222 said it helped curb gang violence.

Bagatsing noted that the curfews' constitutionality were challenged only in 14 of the respondent cities, indicating widespread acceptance among the concerned residents.



ON THE EDGE
Between the dangers and dirt of the street traffic and the dirt and dangers of the Pasig River, children try to have a good time.
ERIK ARAZAS

Makati plans smoking ban

By Leila B. Salaverria

SMOKING in public places in Makati City might soon be banned if a city council ordinance proposing to outlaw it takes effect.

But the council expects stiff opposition from owners of establishments in the city, which is home to many restaurants, bars, shopping malls and other entertainment venues.

Already, newer high-rise buildings in Makati's Central Business District, like the Rufino Tower on

MAKATI/ A26

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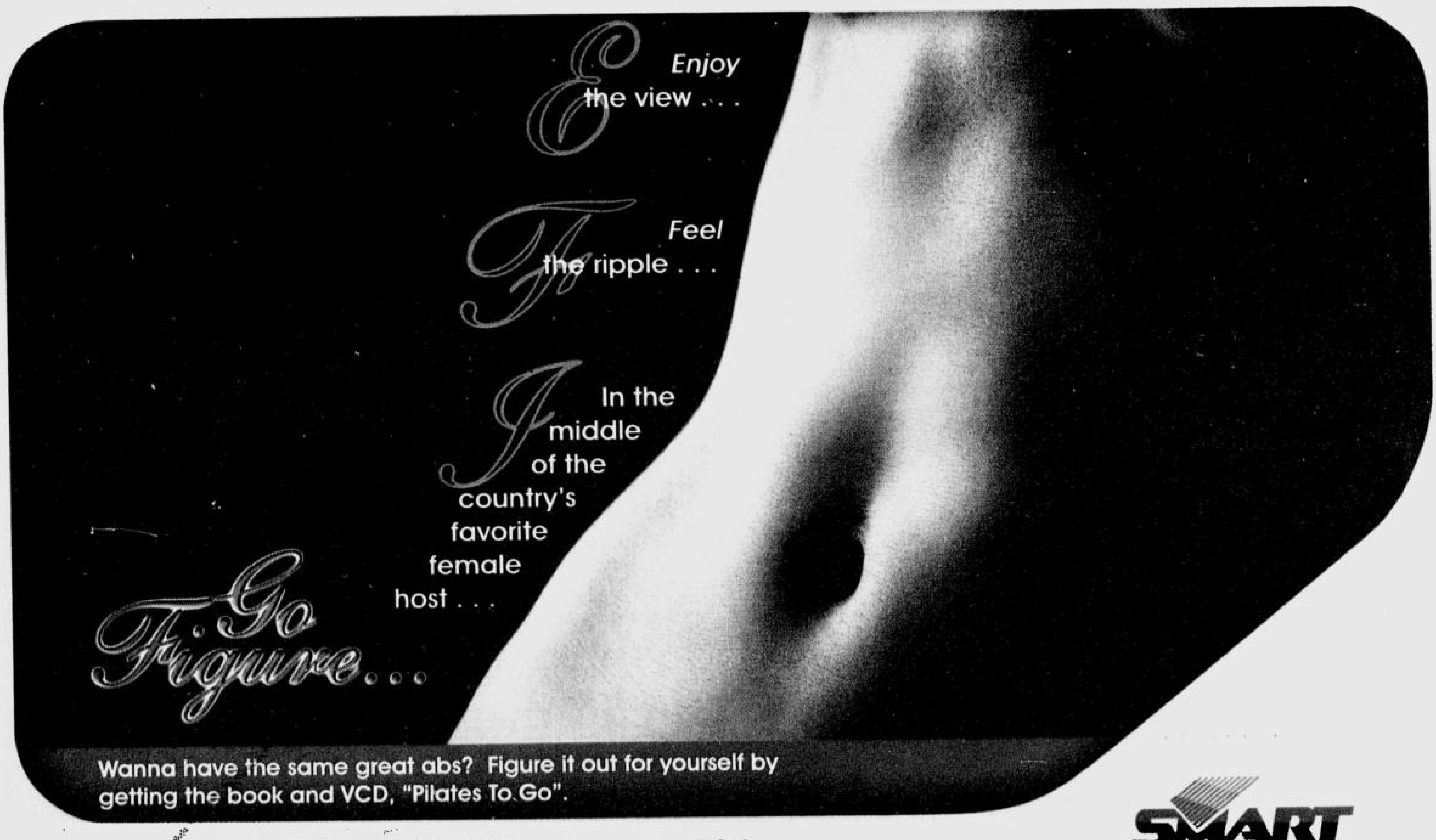

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NCRPO lists prize catch in first 100 days

THE NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office solved 95.12 percent of all crime cases reported in Metro Manila over the last 100 days—an "all time-high," according to a report of Deputy Director General Reynaldo V. Velasco, Metro Manila police chief.

Among the high profile cases cited in Velasco's report to national police chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. were the killing of the head of the dreaded Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang and the dismantling of two big secret shabu factories in Metro Manila.

Velasco also said in his report that 15 other criminal syndicates were busted under the "Magic Eye" project, where concerned citizens report suspicious persons and activities to police.

In the report detailing his first 100 days in office, Velasco said that it was through the "Magic Eye" scheme that the NCRPO collared its prize catch: Faisal Marohombsar of the Pentagon group, and the region's most wanted criminal, Edwin Estenso.

Both were killed during police operations following tips called in by concerned citizens.

Of a total of 5, 715 cases reported in the metropolitan area over the three-month period, 5, 436 or 95.12 percent of the cases were solved which, according to Velasco, was an "all-time high crimes solution efficiency rating."

Velasco also noted major breakthroughs in the fight against illegal drug manufacture and trafficking. This resulted in the raid and the dismantling of two huge illegal shabu laboratories in Parañaque City and Quezon City.

In the crime prevention front, the Metro Manila police chief said that the most significant development was the suppression of big-time bank and convenience store robberies following the activation of a crime mapping and police security containment ring system.

Velasco attributed the success of the 15,000-strong Metro Manila police force to an aggressive community-oriented policing system which he systematically set in place since he took over as Metro Manila police chief.

Velasco specifically mentioned the "Magic Eye" crime reporting system as the program's most successful component so far, with 2,200 people applying as card-bearing volunteers to the Magic Eye Txt Patrol 2910.

The text messaging part of Magic Eye 2910 was launched just before Halloween, with the cooperation of mobile phone carriers Smart and Globe, and the PNP foundation.

He likewise cited the increasing support and involvement of Metro Manila mayors and up to 20 business, civic and non-government organizations in the NCRPO's crime prevention programs.

"With the snowballing support that we have been getting from the captains of industry, leaders of civic clubs, school authorities and students, local government units, particularly the mayors and congressmen, we have gained some ground in rebuilding police credibility in our corner of the country," Velasco said.

Women's group protests 'slow grind' in sex case

By Leila B. Salaverria

A WOMEN'S group yesterday denounced the slow pace of the sexual harassment case that a physical therapist had filed against the general manager of the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City.

Members of the Manggagawang Kababaihang Mithi ay Paglaya yesterday held a rally in front of the Makati City prosecutor's office demanding that the prosecutor's resolution on the case be released soon.

The group also staged a lightning rally in front of the Dusit Hotel.

In a statement, the group said it has been four months since the physical therapist filed the case against Dusit GM Chiyuki Fujimoto, but the prosecutor has still to decide whether to dismiss the case or go to trial.

"While we hold with high regard the Makati prosecutor's office and the people handling the case, we are terribly alarmed at the rate by which the case is running and at reports reaching us from reliable sources that this slow grind is taken advantage of by the defendant to tilt the case in his favor," the group said.

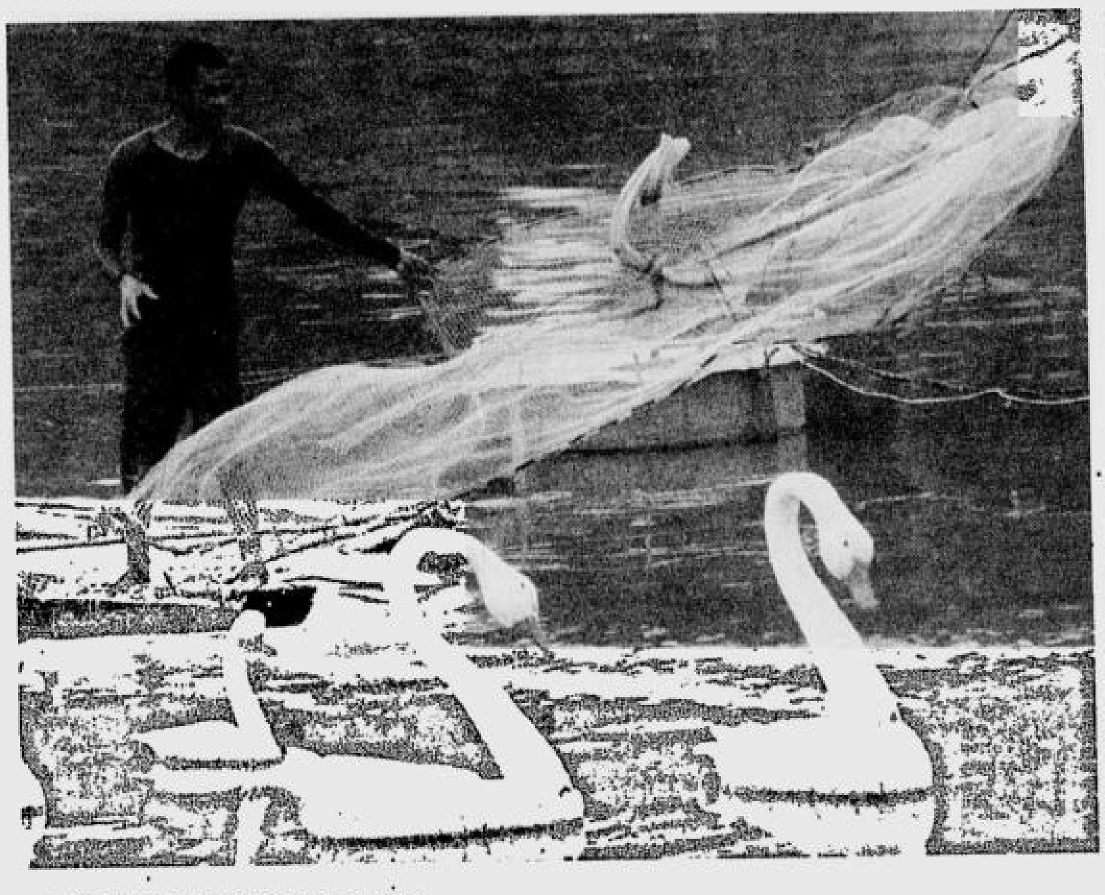
Makalaya also said that the Dusit Hotel should have suspended Fujimoto while the case is pending to allow for an impartial decision on it.

On July 19, the physical therapist, who was then employed with Clark Hatch Fitness Center, a concessioner of Dusit, filed attempted rape and sexual harassment charges against Fujimoto.

She accused Fujimoto of molesting her and attempting to sleep with her while she was giving him a massage last June 25.

In his counter-affidavit, Fujimoto claimed that the complainant was only after money and was actually in the habit of accusing her foreign customers of sexual harassment to extort money from them.

He has also attacked the physical therapist's character, saying she has three children with three different men.



COUNTRY LIFE IN THE CITY
This rustic scene, right in the middle of Marikina City, is real enough. The swans, however, are made of concrete, which, along with concrete carabaos and a giant shoe, are part of the city government's efforts to beautify the river and its environs.

JOAN BONDOC

Sick pupil dies after collapsing in school

By Alcuin Papa

HIGH FEVER did not stop Elain Joy Teng, 7, from going to school yesterday, but she collapsed in the classroom and later died in a hospital in Quezon City.

Teng, of Barangay Masambong, was a Grade 1 pupil of San Francisco Elementary School on San Pedro Bautista Street in Barangay Del Monte.

She was declared dead on arrival at Saint Agnes Hospital, police said.

Teng suddenly felt dizzy and collapsed at 12:30 p.m. yesterday inside a classroom on the second floor of the school, said PO2 Randy Escobido of the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit.

Her teacher, Lolita Rodriguez, came to her aid and found her running a high fever, police said. The girl was immediately brought to the hospital but was declared dead on arrival.

Police are waiting for results of an autopsy on Teng to determine if she had died from other causes.

Teen robbers stab 3 guards

By Nelson F. Flores

THREE security guards were stabbed and seriously hurt when four teeners tried to rob a passenger jeepney in Pasig City Monday night.

Police said victim Mirasol Tiamson is now in critical condition at the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City. Her. companions, Eustaquio Paraiso and Edgar Aldistros, were taken to the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center in Marikina City for treatment.

SPO2 Rod Salamanca of the Pasig City police said the suspects were already in the jeepney when the security guards boarded the vehicle in Marikina City. The jeep was bound for Cainta, Rizal.

Salamanca said the youths announced the holdup when the jeepney reached the corner of Marcos Highway and Ligaya Street in Barangay Santolan at 9:40 p.m.

When the guards resisted, the suspects stabbed all three of them, Salamanca said.

He added that after the stabbing, the robbers got off the jeepney and were even laughing as they calmly walked away.

"According to witnesses the robbers appeared to be high on drugs," Salamanca said.

The robbery came a few days after former Marikina City councilor and actor Sonny Parsons urged the Marikina City government to do something about the worsening peace and order situation in eastern Metro Manila.

Parsons said the proliferation of illegal drugs is to blame for the increase in crime cases in Marikina and Pasig.

Suspect cries 'illegal arrest'

By Agnes E. Donato

SUSPECTED drug dealer Teresito Ayagg yesterday accused four Central Police District police officers of illegal arrest and attempted homicide.

Ayag filed the charges against Insp. Jude Delfin Genio III, Insp. Dorothy Avancena, PO3 Archimedes Marzan and PO1 Edgar Fernandez, all of the Station Drug Enforcement Unit of the CPD police station in Baler.

Ayag, a coconut vendor, said the officers barged into their house in Bagbag, Novaliches, Quezon City at 4:20 a.m. last Aug. 7 and introduced themselves as National Bureau of Investigation agents. Fernandez aimed his gun at Ayag, the latter said. Then they dragged him out of the house while asking him if he was Benjamin Samson. Teresita cried that Samson lived next door.

The companions of the four policemen went to the next shanty and arrested Samson and his wife Cristina Siong. But Samson was able to run away.

Ayag said the officers took him and Siong to the police headquarters and charged with peddling shabu, which Ayag denied.

Both Ayag and Siong were not allowed to post bail and are still detained at the police headquarters.

RP sports medicine plays injured

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

SPEAKING of successful rescues, it's safe to say that the Philippine campaign in the Busan Asian Games was "saved by the bell."

The RP Busan campaign had appeared headed for the floor.

But the timely gold medal win by the beauteous Mikee Cojuangco in the equestrian show jumping final, close to the end of the Busan Asiad, made a whole world of difference.

RP sports officials, after leaping in glee, returned home thumping their breasts, as though equestrian was wholeheartedly, singularly a part of the national sports development program.

Truth is that equestrian officials had to spend a fortune to prepare a team which, other than Mikee's gold, also pocketed a silver medal.

The equestrian group, it was learned later, also had to beg to be accommodated in the RP contingent.

***

Well, speaking of accommodation, we've just heard from a dedicated sportsman, no less than the director of the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine (PCSM), who has been begging the Philippine Sports Commission to look their way.

Dr. Jose Raul Canlas, a former national athlete-turned orthopedic surgeon, says they are doing their chore like a deficient, injured athlete out in the playing field.

Dr. Canlas swears the PCSM is beset by many deficiencies.

The problems include lack of funds, depletion of personnel, lack of clinic space.

***

In a talk with veteran sports scribe Eddie Alinea, Dr. Canlas says he's not exactly blaming the PSC: "We understand that they are really short in funds."

But all they want is a little addition to their very meager budget.

They also need to purchase necessary equipment.

Look, Dr. Canlas says, Malaysia has an $80-million budget for its sports science institute.

So how much does the PCSM get?

Only P11 million, bares Dr. Canlas, of which P9 million has been spent this year, including the salaries of staffers.

***

This only means that the PCSM, whose importance in training and actual competition is immeasurable, gets treated by the PSC like a poor cousin.

The PCSM is tasked to oversee the physical conditioning requirements of some 800 athletes both in the national and developmental pools, Alinea noted.

So, try as hard as they could, the PCSM cannot be expected to fully meet the needs of members of the national training pool.

Of course, notes Dr. Canlas, the Philippines was fortunate that despite our athletes' handicap in terms of sports medicine, they did not finish far behind Malaysia in the last Asian Games.

***

Now, listen to what Dr. Canlas has to prescribe: "If we really have to start preparing our athletes for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games to be hosted by the Philippines, we have to make a move now, not after next year's SEA Games in Vietnam."

And in order to make the PCSM truly efficient, Dr. Canlas says they have to also take in new personnel to replace those who have moved to better paying jobs or have been recruited by sports institutes abroad.

Another big problem facing the center is lack of space needed to accommodate as many athletes as possible.

In fact, there are those who would like to donate equipment, but the center, vital as it is, is itself cramped in a very limited area at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

All told, the solution is proper accommodation.

As one pundit had noted, if they (RP sports officials) were able to accommodate relatives in the list of officials in the Busan Asiad, giving the PCSM its deserved help and attention, should not be a problem.

Convention

THE LAND Transportation Office (LTO) Transportation District Officers Association of the Philippines will hold its national convention at the Development Academy of the Philippines on Nov. 14-16, 2002.

The theme of the convention is "Towards a Disciplined Organization for Accountable Performance."

Guest speakers are Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi and Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

Asst. Secretary Roberto Lastimoso will give the inspirational talk while Tagaytay City Mayor Francis N. Tolentino, president of the City Mayors League of the Philippines, will deliver the welcome address.

The convention highlights are the plenary lectures which will be conducted by Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas, former senator Orlando Mercado, Prof. F. Landa Jocano, and DAP vice president Magdalena Mendoza.

Raffled moved

THE RAFFLE draw of the Pambansang Kalipunan ng mga Kooperatibang Pansasakyan, originally scheduled on Oct. 20, has been moved to March 2, 2003 to coincide with the group's foundation day celebration, according to Norberto Noriega, national chair of the Kalipunan.

Makati plans smoking ban

From page A25

Ayala Avenue, have imposed a smoking ban in the buildings since the late '90s.

In drafting the resolution, members of the city council, all of whom authored the proposed ordinance, cited a World Health Organization report that said up to four million people the world over had died because of second-hand smoke.

The WHO report also stated that tobacco-related deaths are expected to increase by 10 million next year.

The council said that the smoking ban would "ensure the right of the general public to a tobacco-free and smoke-free environment."

Public hearings have been scheduled for concerned groups to air their opinion about the draft resolution that would prohibit smoking in all public vehicles, public buildings and enclosed public places in Makati.

According to the provisions of the Revised Anti-smoking Ordinance of Makati, smoking would also be prohibited in jeepneys, buses and taxis within the city, as well as hospitals, schools, government buildings, hotels, club houses, comfort rooms, elevators, grocery stores and other "buildings or any other enclosed structure, whether government or privately-owned, that is open to the public."

Jeepney and bus operators in Makati are scheduled to give their position on the ordinance today. Hotel, restaurant and bar administrators are set to air their side on Nov. 20.

Expected to attend the Nov. 20 hearing are the members of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines (HRAP), the Makati Club and Restaurant and Entertainment Association (Macrea), and the Makati Karaoke and Music Lounge Association (Makamusika).

Shopping mall representatives from Ayala Land, Rustan's and Shoemart as well as other building owners are also expected to attend the public hearing on Nov. 27.

Multinational toll fee goes to repair, security, village residents say

THE OFFICERS of the homeowners association of Multinational Village in Parañaque said the toll fee from motorists who use its private access road goes to maintenance, lighting and security of the road.

The officers of the Multinational Village Homeowners Association Inc. (MVHAI) were reacting to an earlier report of "extortion" at the toll gate in the village.

In the earlier report, Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita denounced the alleged extortion.

In a statement, the homeowners association said the Multinational Village access road "was built primarily for the use of the Multinational Village homeowners."

"But our socio-civic responsibilities to our neighboring communities take over our convenience and interest," the statement said. "However, we are not a charitable institution nor are we rich enough to allow other motorists to use the access road, which we maintain, repair and secure at a cost, for free."

The association said the toll fee collected from vehicles without MVHAI vehicle stickers passing through the access road "is just enough to fund the repair, maintenance, lighting and security of the said road."

The officers said that last Nov. 7, Zialcita and his security aides toppled the temporary guardhouse manned by two security guards and two security officers of Multinational Village "without any provocation."

"The collection of toll fee is caused by the negligence and indifference of the concerned local government," the statement said.

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Harry Potter AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
SHOWING ON NOVEMBER 13, 2002
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SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173888
1 SEX FILES
2 TRANSPORTER
3 HARRY POTTER 2
4 HIBLA
5 HARRY POTTER 2
6 KAILANGAN KITA
7 MASARAP NA PUGAD
8 GHOST SHIP

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 - 7161416
1 KAILANGAN KITA
2 TRANSPORTER
3 HARRY POTTER 2
4 MASARAP NA PUGAD
5 HARRY POTTER 2
6 TWO TIMER
7 HARRY POTTER 2
8 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
9 HIBLA
10 CHANGING LANES

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
2 TWO TIMER
3 TRANSPORTER
4 HARRY POTTER 2
5 HARRY POTTER 2
6 KAILANGAN KITA
7 HARRY POTTER 2
8 HARRY POTTER 2
9 HIBLA
10 GHOST SHIP
11 SEX FILES
12 MASARAP NA PUGAD

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 HARRY POTTER 2
2 TRANSPORTER
3 CHANGING LANES
4 HARRY POTTER 2
5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6 HARRY POTTER 2
7 HIBLA
8 MASARAP NA PUGAD
9 KAILANGAN KITA
10 GHOST SHIP
11 SEX FILES
12 HARRY POTTER 2

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 HARRY POTTER 2
2 TRANSPORTER
3 HARRY POTTER 2
4 HARRY POTTER 2
5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6 GHOST SHIP
7 BRAZEN WOMEN
8 SEX FILES
9 KAILANGAN KITA
10 HARRY POTTER 2
11 HIBLA
12 MASARAP NA PUGAD

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 KAILANGAN KITA
2 HARRY POTTER 2
3 SEX FILES
4 HIBLA
5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6 BRAZEN WOMEN
7 HARRY POTTER 2
8 HARRY POTTER 2

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 TRANSPORTER
2 GHOST SHIP
3 HARRY POTTER 2
4 HARRY POTTER 2
5 TWO TIMER
6 SEX FILES
7 HIBLA
8 HARRY POTTER 2
9 KAILANGAN KITA
10 MASARAP NA PUGAD

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 HARRY POTTER 2
2 HARRY POTTER 2
3 CHANGING LANES
4 GHOST SHIP
5 HIBLA
6 SEX FILES
7 KAILANGAN KITA
8 HARRY POTTER 2

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 SEX FILES
2 CLOSED
3 HARRY POTTER 2
4 KAILANGAN KITA
5 RED DRAGON
6 HARRY POTTER 2
7 CLOSED
8 HIBLA

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 HARRY POTTER 2
2 HARRY POTTER 2
3 GHOST SHIP
4 HIBLA
5 SEX FILES
6 KAILANGAN KITA

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 HIBLA
2 HARRY POTTER 2
3 HARRY POTTER 2
4 TRANSPORTER

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 HARRY POTTER 2
2 HIBLA
3 KAILANGAN KITA
4 TRANSPORTER

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 HARRY POTTER 2
2 HIBLA
3 HARRY POTTER 2
4 KAILANGAN KITA
5 HARRY POTTER 2
6 CHANGING LANES

SM BICUTAN
1
2
3
4
WATCH OUT FOR THE OPENING ON NOVEMBER 29, 2002

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1
2
3
4
WATCH OUT FOR THE OPENING ON NOVEMBER 15, 2002

THE PODIUM CINEMA
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
12:30 FS/1:00 MF/4:20/7:40/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:50 END

2 HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
11:50 FS/12:20 MF/3:40/7:00/
9:50 LFS/10:20 LMF/1:10 END

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HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
4 GHOST SHIP
5 HIBLA
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
7 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
8 KAILANGAN KITA
9 SEX FILES
10 THE TRANSPORTER
MATINEE PRICE: P80 THX cinema / P65 level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita
536 -7809- 12
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
2 TRAPPED
3 KAILANGAN KITA
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
5 HIBLA
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

Metro East - Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280
1 SEX FILES
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
4 THE TRANSPORTER
5 HIBLA
6 KAILANGAN KITA
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
8 MASARAP NA PUGAD

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
2 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
3 THETRANSPORTER
4 GHOST SHIP
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
6 KAILANGAN KITA
7 MASARAP NA PUGAD
8 HIBLA

Malabon Citisquare
285- 7671 / 7675
1 HIBLA
2 OPENS NOV. 27- DIE ANOTHER DAY
3 OPENS NOV. 20- GISING NA SI ADAN
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961- 5318 / 5270
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
3 KAILANGAN KITA
4 HIBLA
5 SEX FILES
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838
HARRY POTTER & THA CHAMBER OF SECRETS
HARRY POTTER & THA CHAMBER OF SECRETS
HARRY POTTER & THA CHAMBER OF SECRETS
4 KAILANGAN KITA
5 SEX FILES
6 HIBLA

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
3 KAILANGAN KITA
4 BEDTIME STORIES
5 "O"
6 FRAILTY

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
3 HIBLA
4 KAILANGAN KITA
5 SEX FILES
6 DALAGINDING

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GALE	MLA	MEP	NOVA
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The other side of child stardom

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

CHILD stars are cute, precocious, gifted, wealthy, popular—and sometimes miserable. That's the conclusion of a study made on the lives of Hollywood moppets by popular-culture analysts who have surveyed the movie acting scene since the 1930s. So, before you push your kid into the limelight, quit your job and become a "stage parent," read on:

If child talents are handled right, there need not be any problem. But doing what's "right" can get to be complicated, a combination of essential factors to make sure that juvenile talents aren't negatively affected by the movie scene's far from childlike realities.

The governing principle is: limit the child talent's exposure to the film world by cutting down on his shooting hours and insisting that he doesn't shoot late into night. He should also have enough time for school and homework, plus free time so he can play, interact with his family and other non-show biz people, and just be a kid.

And it's important that the child actor's parents shouldn't make him the family's breadwinner. That's their responsibility. When the kid starts making money, it should be put in the bank, under his name.

Many stage parents don't comply with these requirements, which is why so many child talents end up so badly.

One of the worst examples is the famous **Judy Garland.** She was fabulously popular after she scored a direct hit on moviegoers hearts with "The Wizard of Oz," but her personal life was miserable.

Of all the victims of Hollywood's studio system, she was one of the most tragic. Early on, her life and career were run by others. When her father died, her studio bosses took over, and they were far from fatherly.

Her losing battle with narcotics began in childhood. When she looked plump, she was given slimming and sleeping pills, and put on a strict diet. Soon, she needed more and more pills to make her sleep, then many "Uppers" to revive her when she had to shoot!

Her body became so dependent on medication that she started looking for other stimulants, and became an alcoholic—a problem that she had to contend with for the rest of her life.

When she became a teenager, even her dates were arranged by her studio. She got married early, and when she got pregnant, she was pressured into aborting the pregnancy because it would delay the movie she was making at the time!

She was so messed up psychologically that, at age 21, she was secretly seeing a psychiatrist. For the next few years, there was a pattern of breakdowns, hospitalization and having to get back to work before she was completely rehabilitated.

After she attempted suicide, she saw her analyst daily for five years—but he could only do so much. At 25, she suffered a complete nervous breakdown. She in 1969, still adored by many for her exceptional singing and acting talents, but unhappy till the end.

Well, this is a Hollywood horror story. Many child stars don't have it as bad. But they still have major problems. On the local film scene, those include having to shoot for long hours, deep into the night; having to be absent from school; the entire family living off the child talent's earnings; his life being completely controlled, and his being overworked, shutting from one "racket" to another with no time to rest.

The solution is for school officials and social workers to step in when the child's parents are acting irresponsibly. Movie producers and directors should also protect the child talents they work with, and make sure that their rights are upheld, even if their own parents want to exploit them. Children should be children first, and actors only second.

On Star Movies

AT 9 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 14, the film on view on the Star Movies Channel is "Dr. Dolittle 2" with **Eddie Murphy** playing a doctor who can talk to animals.

On Sunday, Nov. 17, also at 9 p.m., **Will Smith, Matt Damon** and **Charlize Theron** topbill "The Legend of Bagger Vance," a movie about golf, friendship and life. The film is directed by **Robert Redford** and narrated by **Jack Lemmon**, who also puts in a cameo appearance as a veteran golf champion.

At 10:45 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 15, new star **Colin Farrell** gets his breakthrough role in "Tigerland." The movie also stars **Matthew Davis** and **Clifton Collins Jr.** Replays are at 9 p.m. on Nov. 21, and 12:45 a.m. on Nov. 30.

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MANILA	
EASTERN	
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ROBEN	DALAGINDING
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	AUSTIN POWER / DERAILED
QUEZON CITY	
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ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
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QUEZON-1	DALAGINDING
REMAR	DALAGINDING
REMAR-2	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
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B	SEX FILE
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
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CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HIBLA
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CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	TRANSPORTER
CINEMA-12	HIBLA
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(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Araneta Center
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Farmers 1	HIBLA
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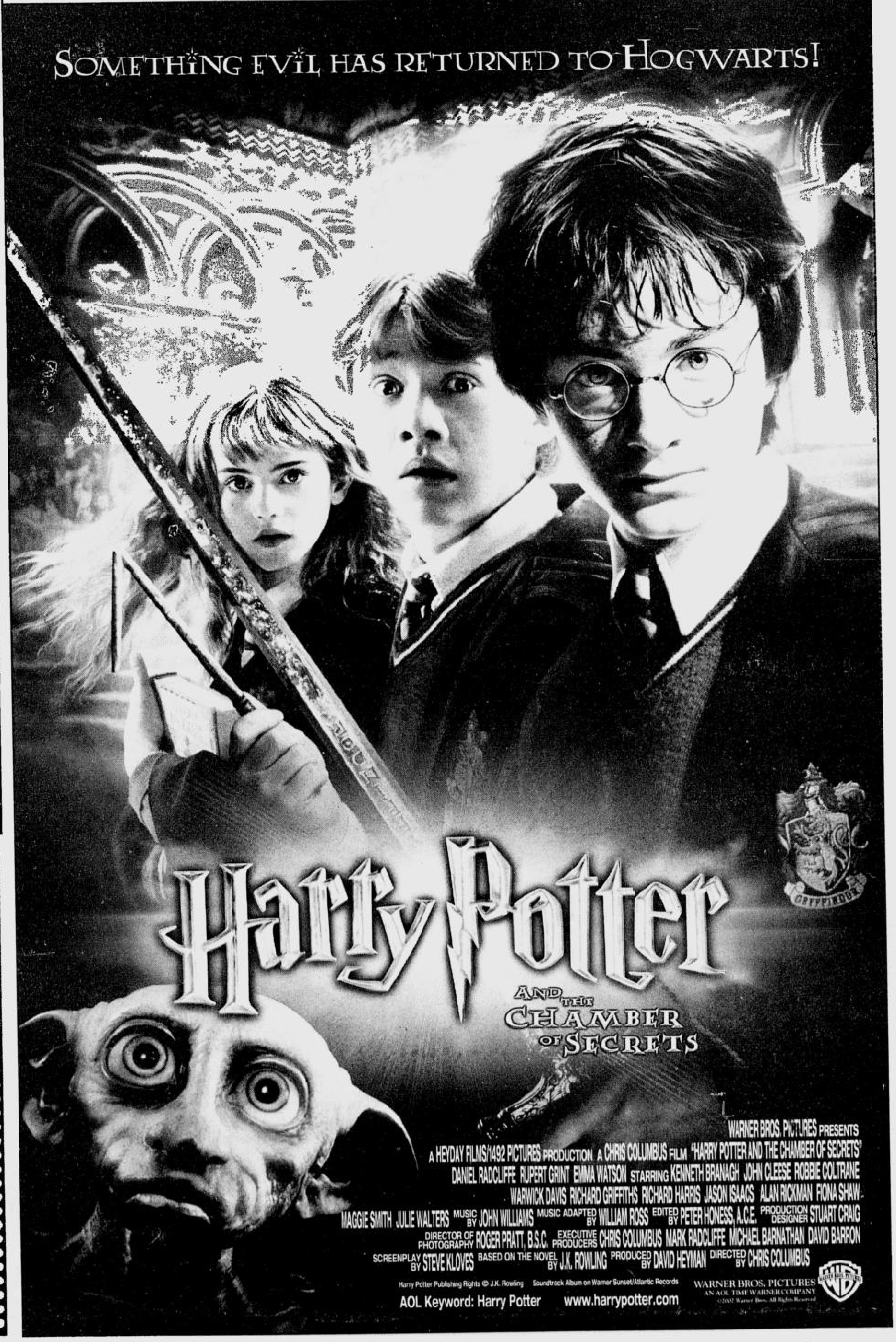
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Harry Potter AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
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SCREENPLAY BY STEVE KLOVES BASED ON THE NOVEL BY J.K. ROWLING PRODUCED BY DAVID HEYMAN DIRECTED BY CHRIS COLUMBUS

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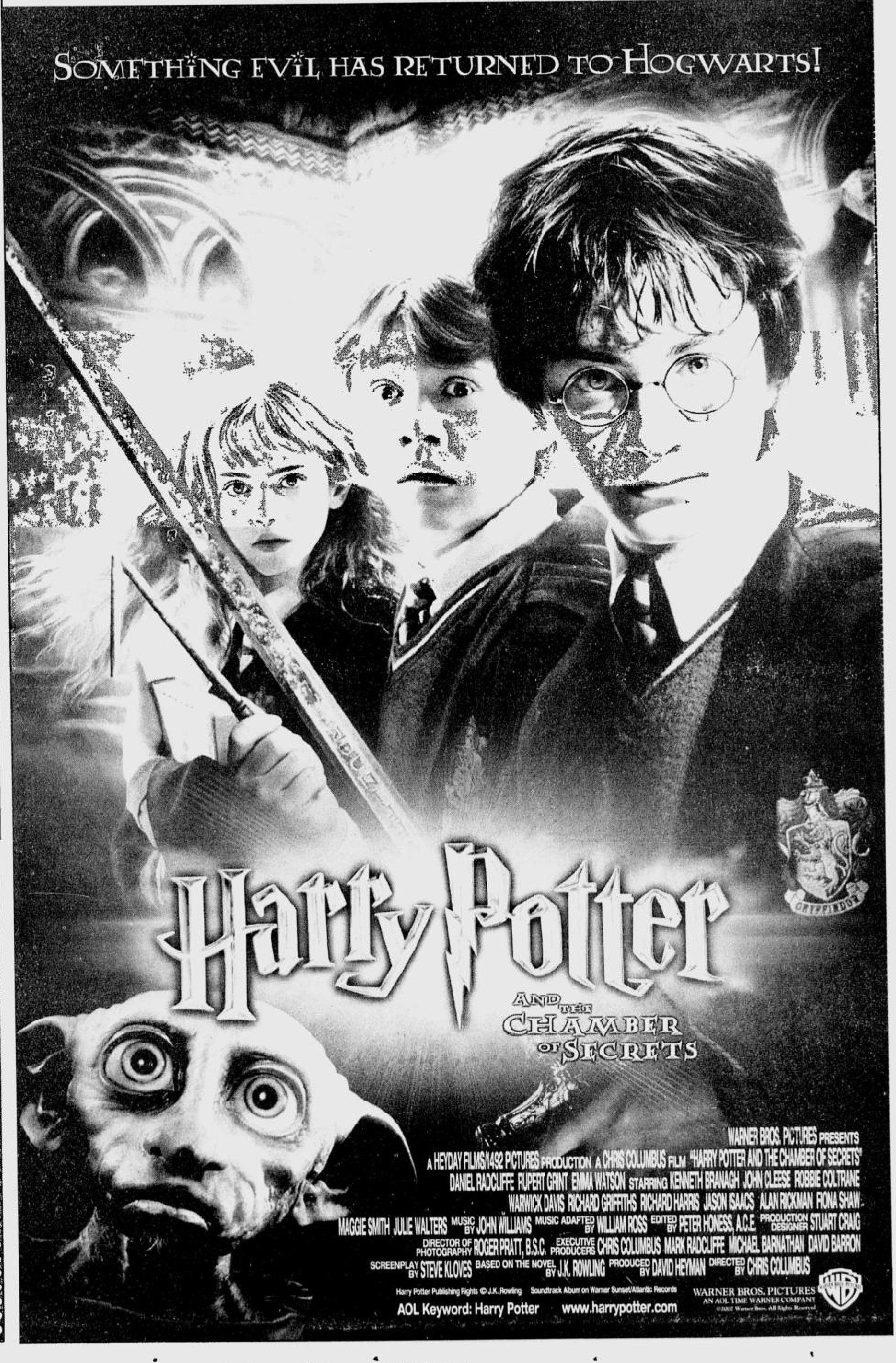

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Celebrities fill Oakley's eye-popping launch

DIETHER Ocampo in a Water Gulket eyewear, together with Oakley's warm-up pants, Flesh Grey footwear and Crush Skull watch.

OAKLEY, which has revolutionized the way we view eyewear, showcased its avant-garde products in a star-studded event that combined the elements of fashion show, hi-tech lighting, dramatic action sequences and concert.

With Jaime Fabregas as Oakley's Mad Scientist, the recent show at the RCBC Plaza in Makati featured Diether Ocampo, Jake Roxas, Gaby de la Merced, Bernard Palanca, Victor Neri and "Gameplan" hosts Tricia Chiongbhian, Rovilson Fernandez, Carlo Ledesma and Akiko Thomson, plus a live, all-star rock band featuring members of local rock icons Razorback and Spectrum.

Oakley displayed its collection of footwear, sports apparel and timepieces.

Also at the launch were Oakley's dealers from Executive Optical, Almeda Optical, Sarabia Optical-Rockwell, Optical Works, Good Vision and Eyecrafter-Davao and special guests Sophia Zobel Elizalde and Patxi Elizalde, Mia Borromeo, Jacques Dupasquier, Bea Valdes with constant date Archie Rodriguez, Tim Yap, Angelo Villanueva, JR Isaac, Channel 7's Margaux Salcedo and Hans Montenegro, TJ Manotoc, Channel 2's Garlic Garcia and other celebrities like Eddie Garcia, Luke Mejares of South Border and Bobby Andrews.

Oakley sales and marketing director Jane Ortega and advertising and sports marketing coordinator Julie Angeles were also present.

Oakley eyewear, footwear, timepieces and apparel are available at all major and leading optical shops and retail sportswear stores.

CHANNEL 7'S TJ Manotoc, Margaux Salcedo and Hans Montenegro.

CARLO Ledesma

EDDIE Garcia

JAKE Roxas

Weight-watching stars celebrate weight clinic's first birthday

DOCTOR OF THE STARS. Joel Mendez with celebrity client Jessa Zaragoza.

THE MAIN clinic of Weigh Less Center along Roces Avenue in Quezon City celebrated its first anniversary last week with a star-studded bash.

Dr. Joel Mendez, the current favorite doctor of the stars, welcomed the celebrity guests who were mostly his patients.

The Blue Ground Band provided music, and stars such as Ara Mina, Janice de Belen, Jessa Zaragoza, Beth Tamayo, Shyr Valdez and comedian John Lapuz did impromptu numbers.

Other celebrities who added glitter to the affair were Kathleen Hermosa, Keempee de Leon, Mel Kimura and "Angfourgettables" members Bimbo Cerrudo and Pinky Marquez.

The Weigh Less Center (371-8886 to 87) also has a massage room, steam room, derma room and dental room.

DE BELEN

ARA MINA

TAMAYO

"ANGFOURGETTABLE" GUESTS. Bimbo Cerrudo and Pinky Marquez.

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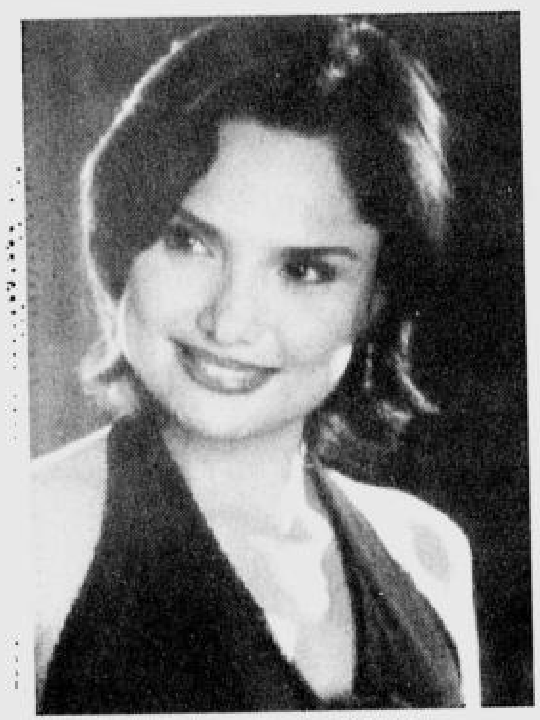
GMA 7: Dina will be in the next station ID



SERNA. Lead player in the GMA 7 soap, "Habang Kapiling Ka," joins the star-studded station ID.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

BY THIS time, viewers will have been familiar with the star-studded station ID of GMA 7, "Kapuso," and the jingle sung by **Regine Velasquez.**

The station ID shows GMA 7 contract stars and news and public affairs talents mingling with the network's loyal viewers, all meant to show the spirit of being one family.

It's a treat to see the likes of **Bong Revilla Jr., Rudy Fernandez, Richard Gomez, Joey Marquez, Eddie Garcia, Hilda Koronel,** Regine Velasquez, **Ogie Alcasid, Jaya** and **Lani Misalucha** in a one-minute MTV. The network airs "Kapuso" in between programs, from sign-on to sign-off.

GMA 7 vice president for network communications **Ernesto Gallardo** said that after only a few days, "Kapuso" has earned very good voluntary feedback.

"Now you can hear children or even jeepney drivers singing the jingle," Gallardo said.

"Kapuso" was conceptualized by the network's corporate Equity team, through its corporate strategic planning department led by **Jessica Abaya.**

"From the start, we wanted to come up with an equity that is unique, something that is ownable to GMA and meaningful to its viewers, with a combination of relevance and distinctiveness," says Abaya.

"Based on the network's studies on its strengths and weaknesses against its biggest rival, the team decided that the brand equity should be based on a deep emotional relationship with our audience," Abaya adds.

"We wanted to find ways to please the viewers, enrich their lives and define our relationship with them. We want to bring GMA closer to the hearts and minds of Filipinos. That's why 'Kapuso' is very appropriate because it's beyond relatives, family and friends. We all have common dreams, aspirations and feelings."

The network's Equity team wanted to retain its own traits like credibility and integrity, as well as focus on increasing its emotional bonding with its viewers.

The colorful rainbow logo has been turned into a heart, placed beside the station name.

"This is not a seasonal ad," Jessica pointed out. "This is a long-term positioning of the network."

GMA 7's Equity team is composed of Abaya, Gallardo, **Manuel Quiogue** who is marketing president, **Edilberto "Judd" Gallares** as new media chief operating officer, **Mike Enriquez** who is senior vice president for radio group, **Jobart Bartolome** as program analyst and **Ramon Guison** who is responsible for re-aligning the image of the network.

Wilma Galvante, GMA 7 vice president for entertainment, explained the conspicuous absence of Dina Bonnevie in the "Kapuso" station ID, which made Dina cry (Showbiz Tidbits—Sunday, Nov. 10, 2002).

"This will be a series of IDs and this is just the first," Wilma told the INQUIRER. "We will make a new one in January and Dina will be included there."

Wilma also confirmed that Dina will be given a new show in the network and will be part of a new soap opera early next year.

Meanwhile, with the talk that GMA 7's long-running noontime show, "Eat Bulaga," will move to ABS-CBN, Wilma disclosed the program had recently renewed its contract to air on the network for another two years. "Eat Bulaga" is produced by **Tony Tuviera's** Television and Production Exponent (Tape), Inc.

Wilma also adds "Eat Bulaga" host **Vic Sotto** is not leaving the network to do a sitcom with ABS-CBN. Vic, in fact, is the producer of "Dadedidodu," his own Sunday night sitcom on GMA 7.

Wilma also said Regine Velasquez will stay in GMA 7 and continue to host the Sunday noontime program, "SOP."

Asked about the decision of ABS-CBN to simultaneously air "Eco Moda," the soap sequel to GMA 7's top-rating daytime soap, "Betty La Fea," Wilma said, "We turned down 'Eco Moda' because we heard it didn't do well when it aired in Venezuela. It only ran for two months. I'm sure they did it to spite us and with the hope of killing the competition."

Instead, ABS-CBN only got the ire of loyal "Betty La Fea" viewers. Now, they can simply surf both channels and know what will happen next in the story.

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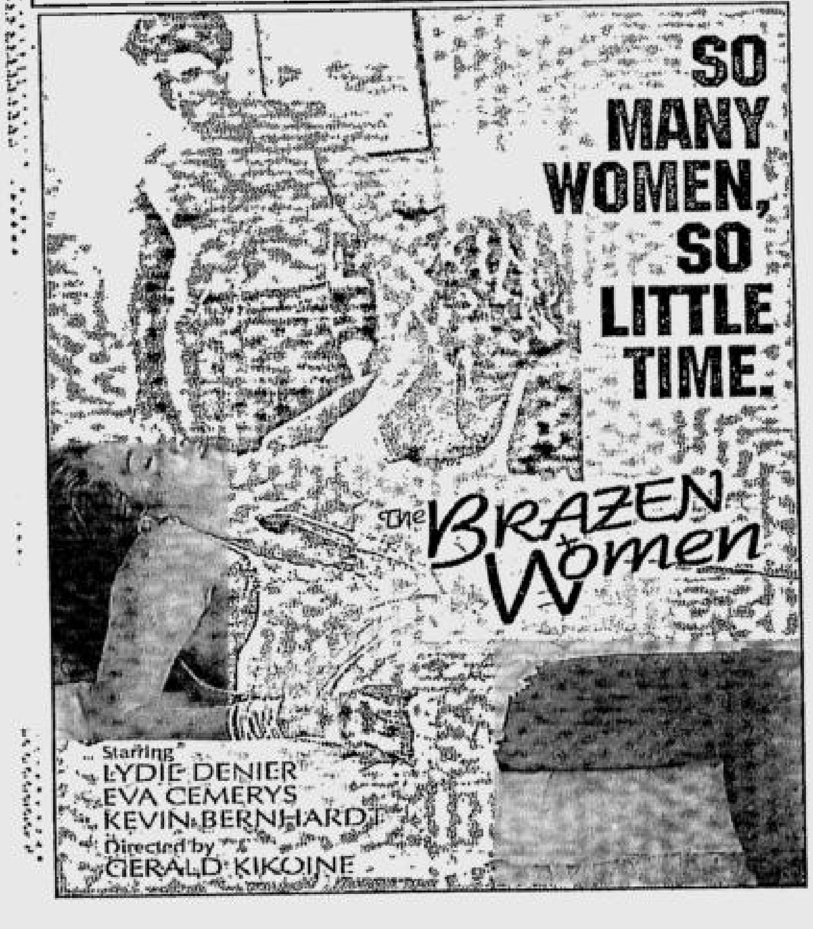

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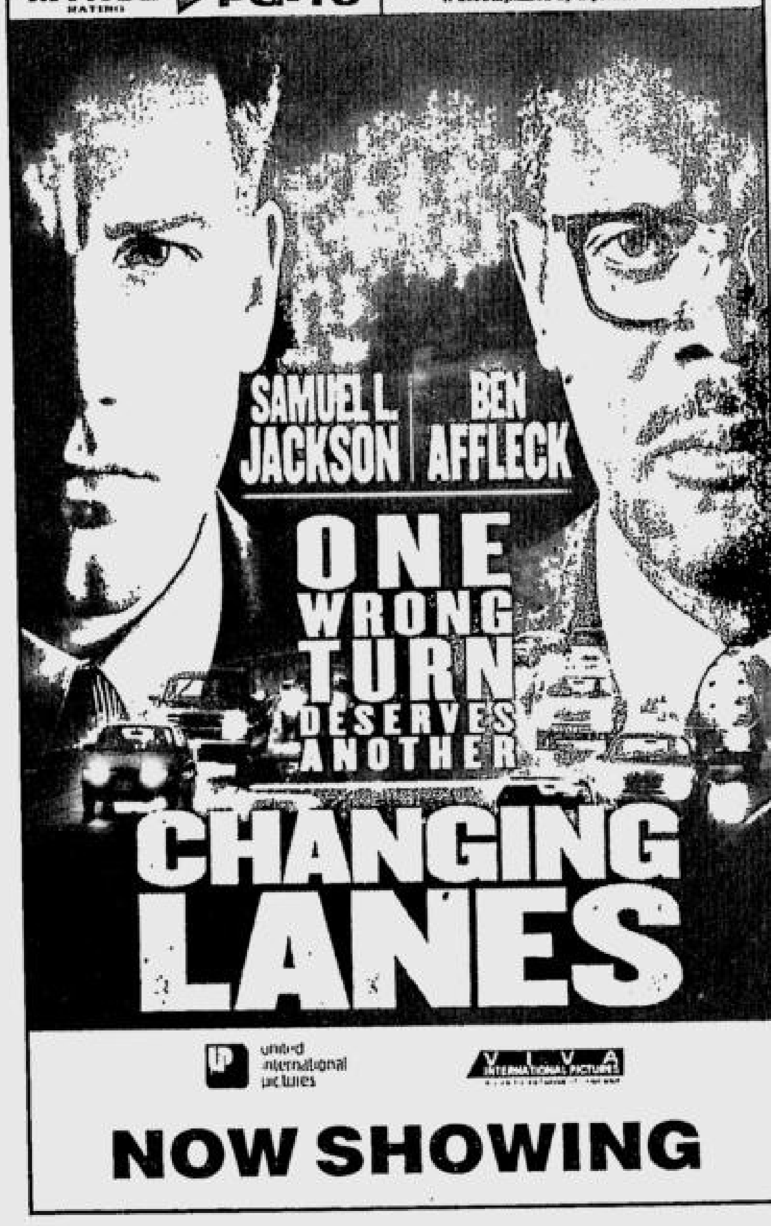
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Dance as mind opener

From page A32

team of medics dancing to music that warned of tragedy.

Theater director and actor Zeneida Amador's reading, set to Ryan Cayabyab's music, established that the victim, in his early 30s, had been brought to the hospital. The reading described the vital body parts that were beaten and stabbed. The beauty of the work lay in the stirring movement dynamics and how Nierras created the imagery of severely damaged vital organs.

The mood changed when the reading described the look of peace on the victim's face. A black scrim was lifted to reveal several dancers on harnesses creating a human cross.

Jay Aranda's lighting design and Benny and Liz Batoctoy's costumes of unitards painted with veins, arteries and organs strengthened the visual impact.

After an introspective first part, the second half of the show focused on social themes. "Buhay, Hapis, Pag-ibig, Ngayon at Kailanman," set to George Canseco's hit songs and sung by Basil Valdez, is considered one of Nierras' classics. Instead of literally interpreting the sentimental lyrics by showing the Filipino's desperate longings, the passages presented a sense of unexpectedness through the sharp movement attacks.

Audiences will never get tired of this work. However, people who have seen this performed earlier couldn't help but make comparisons between the ensemble and the original cast (whose members are no longer with the company). The original group was more powerful because Nierras had honed them for many years.

"Mga Guhit Pinoy," set to popular Filipino folk songs, was a tribute to the masses and expounding on themes of friendship, the community feeling and love. Although it was meant to provide comic relief, the piece ended with a tragedy of a woman losing her loved one to a bomb attack.

The finale echoed the theme of the opener: sacrifice and suffering. "Contemplaciones Sobre Una Flor Filipina," music by Cayabyab set to Rizal's "Mi Ultimo Adios," depicted vignettes of overseas contract workers exploited by their employers.

The title "Can Everybody Powerdance" was Nierras' statement in itself. He wanted to change the conventional and elitist perception that only young and nubile dancers with a decade of classical training have the right to be seen onstage. Nierras' new batch is a motley of mature and seasoned dancers and Gen Y-ers in all shapes and sizes with non-pros as guest artists.

Instead of the cookie-cutter symmetry seen in other companies, the dancers perfectly blended together so that nobody looked too old, too young or too fat.

But there wasn't enough power in Powerdance that night since it was a new group working at different energy levels. Although the individual dancers are gifted with special qualities, it will take some time for the group energy to solidify and become potent.

We've seen Powerdance undergo several regenerations. The dancers start out raw and develop into an intense and unified ensemble that could knock your teeth off. Then they leave and a new batch comes in. Such cycle of polishing raw material into a thing of amazement makes dance dynamic.

Martin with Ryan at The Tent

CONCERT king Martin Nievera teams up with noted composer Ryan Cayabyab in "Amazing Nights," 9:15 tonight at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio.

"Martin Meets the Maestro" keeps true to the promise of "Amazing Nights" to deliver quality performances from the country's finest artists.

Following the steps of other music greats such as Gary Valenciano, Ogle Alcasid and Lani Misalucha, Martin has enthusiastically entrusted this big event to the series' musical director, Ryan Cayabyab.

"Martin Meets the Maestro" is presented by Dove, PLDT Business Solutions, Fino Leatherware and Astoria Plaza, with Le Souffle.

Media partners are Joey @ 92.3 Rhythms, Mellow Touch 94.7 and 105.1 Crossover.

Limited tickets at P 900 each will be available only at the NBC Tent.

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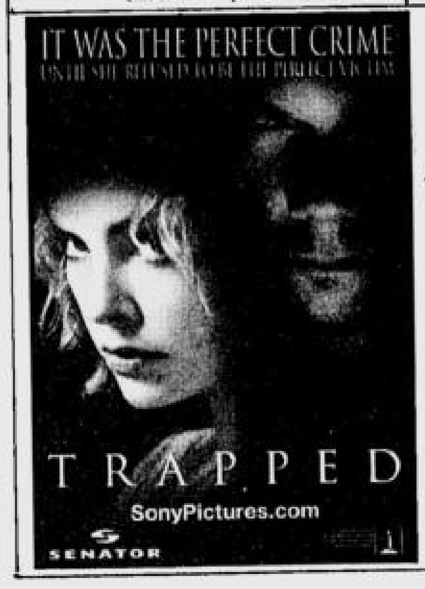

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They kidnap the child of rich parents, hold the kid for 24 hours, keeping the mother under Joe's control while Cheryl gets the ransom from the father, who is on a trip.

But things go very wrong when they try the scheme on Dr. and Mrs. Will Jennings (Charlize Theron, *SWEET NOVEMBER* and Stuart Townsend, *QUEEN OF THE DAMNED*), in part because their daughter Abby (Dakota Fanning, *I AM SAM*) is asthmatic, and in part because the Jennings find out more than Joe Hickley wants them to know.

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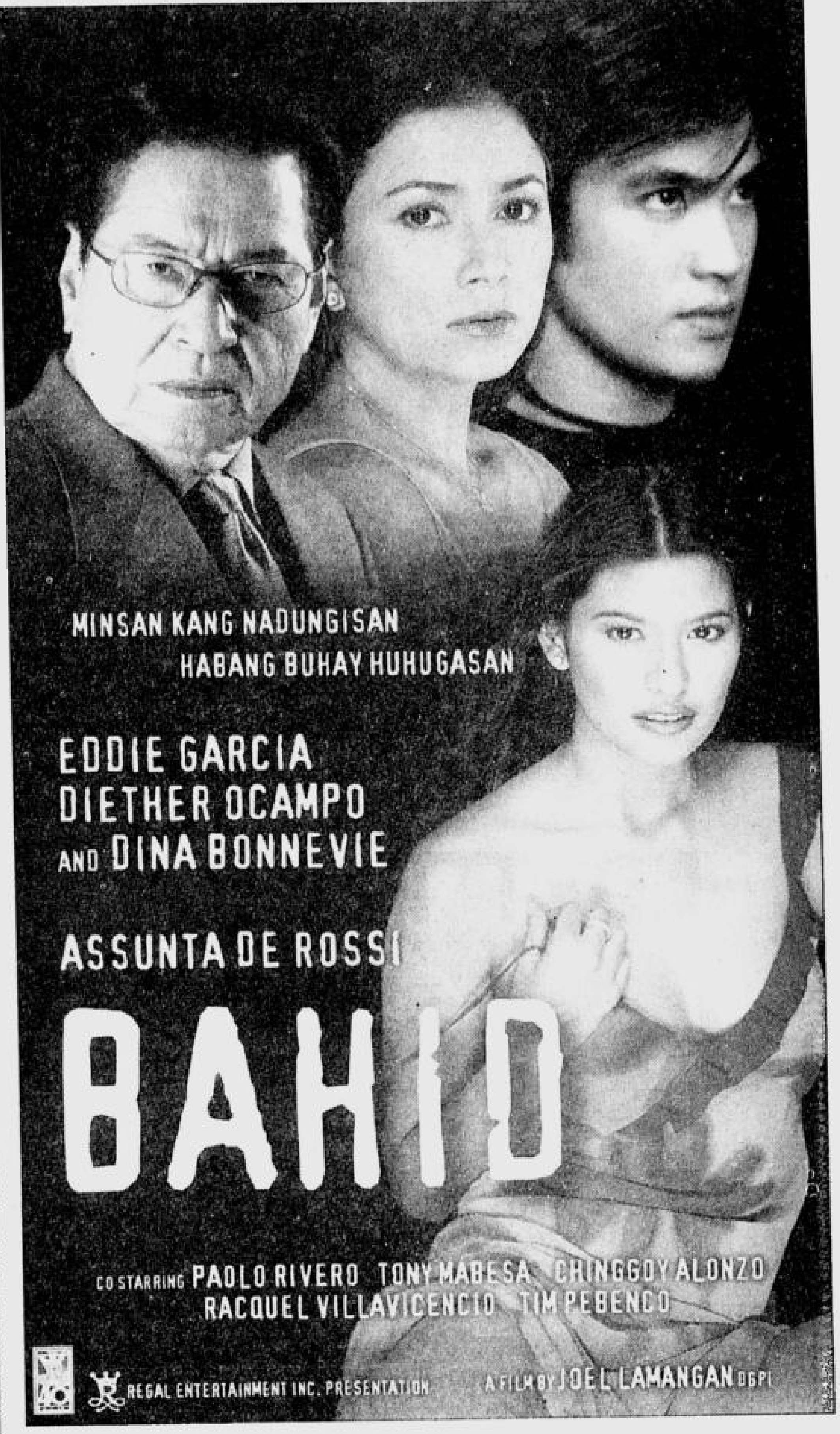
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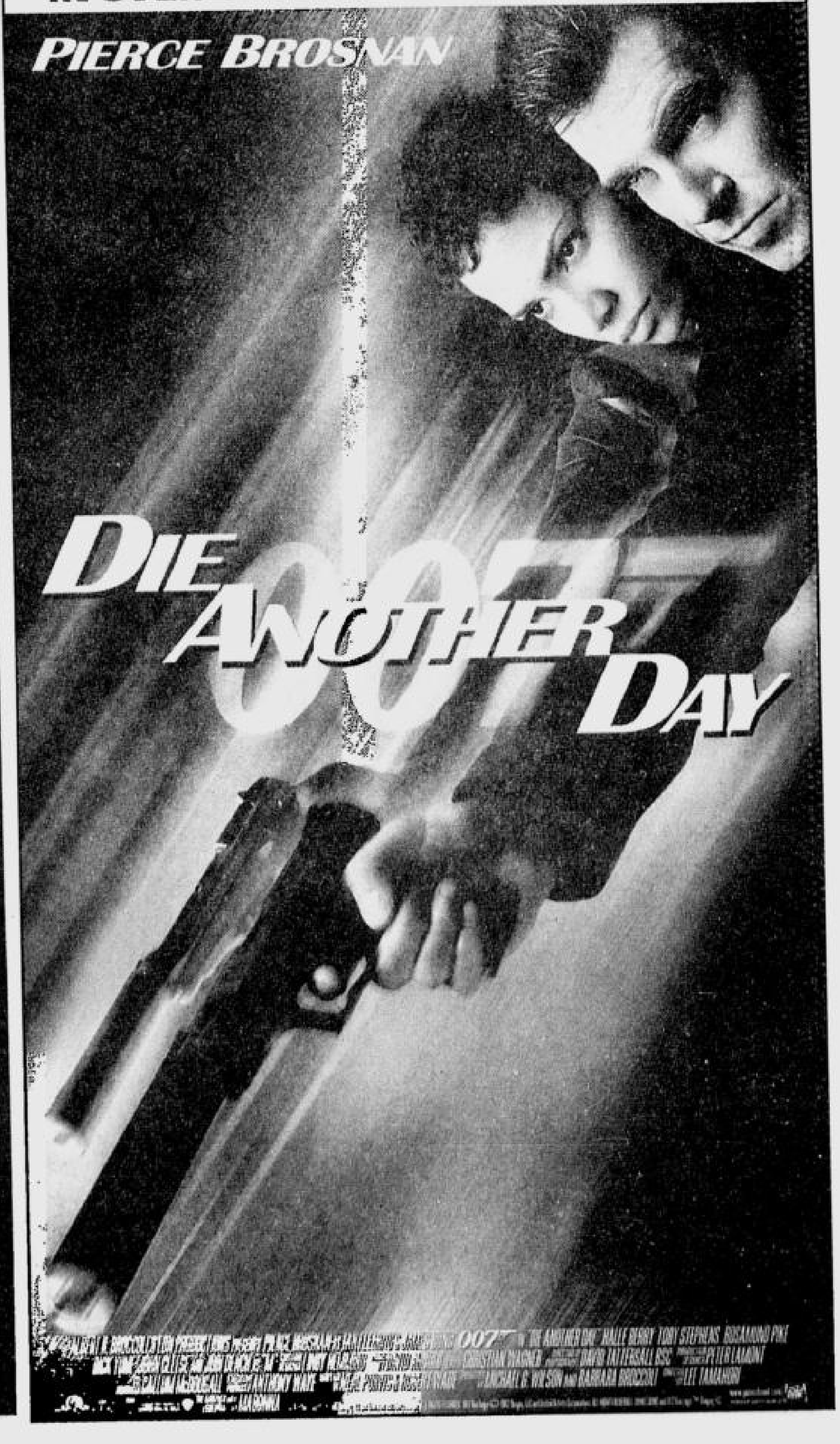

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Dance as mind opener

By Marge C. Enriquez

REVIEW

CHOREOGRAPHER Douglas Nierras, known for his wit, humor and theatrical style, marked the 15th anniversary of his company Powerdance with sobriety.

To viewers accustomed to his vibrancy and pop culture themes, the sober mood that dominated the anniversary concert, called "Can Everybody Powerdance," seemed uncharacteristic.

To friends, his Nov. 9 show at the Cultural Center of the Philippines represented elements of his aesthetic preoccupation: his views on life, religion, culture in relation to society and the Filipino identity.

In other dance concerts, the audience relies on program notes and sees the choreographer only in the final bow. Here, Nierras made his presence felt by waxing philosophical before every piece and explaining how the dances related to the personal and social context. To him, dance is not only entertainment but a medium of instruction or of opening people's minds to new realities.

As in most Powerdance concerts, a religious number, "The Passion According to St. Matthew," opened the show. It was an invocation punctuated by a vignette of a sorrowful Mary watching a completely stripped Jesus Christ on the cross. The stripping was a statement in itself about how dancers are serious about their art and that they would do anything for it. The audience that night had no qualms about nudity.

DOUGLAS Nierras and the Powerdance.

In many of his concerts, Nierras has effectively used dramatic readings of literature as a rhythmic impetus to the dance. In "Ang Landas na Minsan Lang Tinahak," the stanzas of Robert Frost paved the way for lyricism and seriousness. It was an ensemble work set to Frost's popular "The Road not Taken" and "Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening," ending with two contrasting solos in "Fire and Ice."

As usual, Nierras interpreted the poems through related dynamic qualities instead of literal images.

One of the strongest numbers of the show was Nierras' new work, "Sa Mga Kamay ng Kapwa," which interpreted how one's fate is dependent on another. Nierras created for six danseurs an interesting series of athletic duets, consisting of intertwining bodies that created elastic shapes. Their whole bodies complemented and conformed to each other. Adding sensuality to this physical piece was the costume: a skin-colored body stocking with a bright patch of color on the private parts.

"Coroner's Report" was the pièce de résistance of the evening. It was one of his most brilliant works and it showed how Nierras could make powerful choreography based on a laboratory report written by a pathologist. The choreography established a hospital scene showing the contrast between a woman in white carrying a newborn child and the

DANCE/A31

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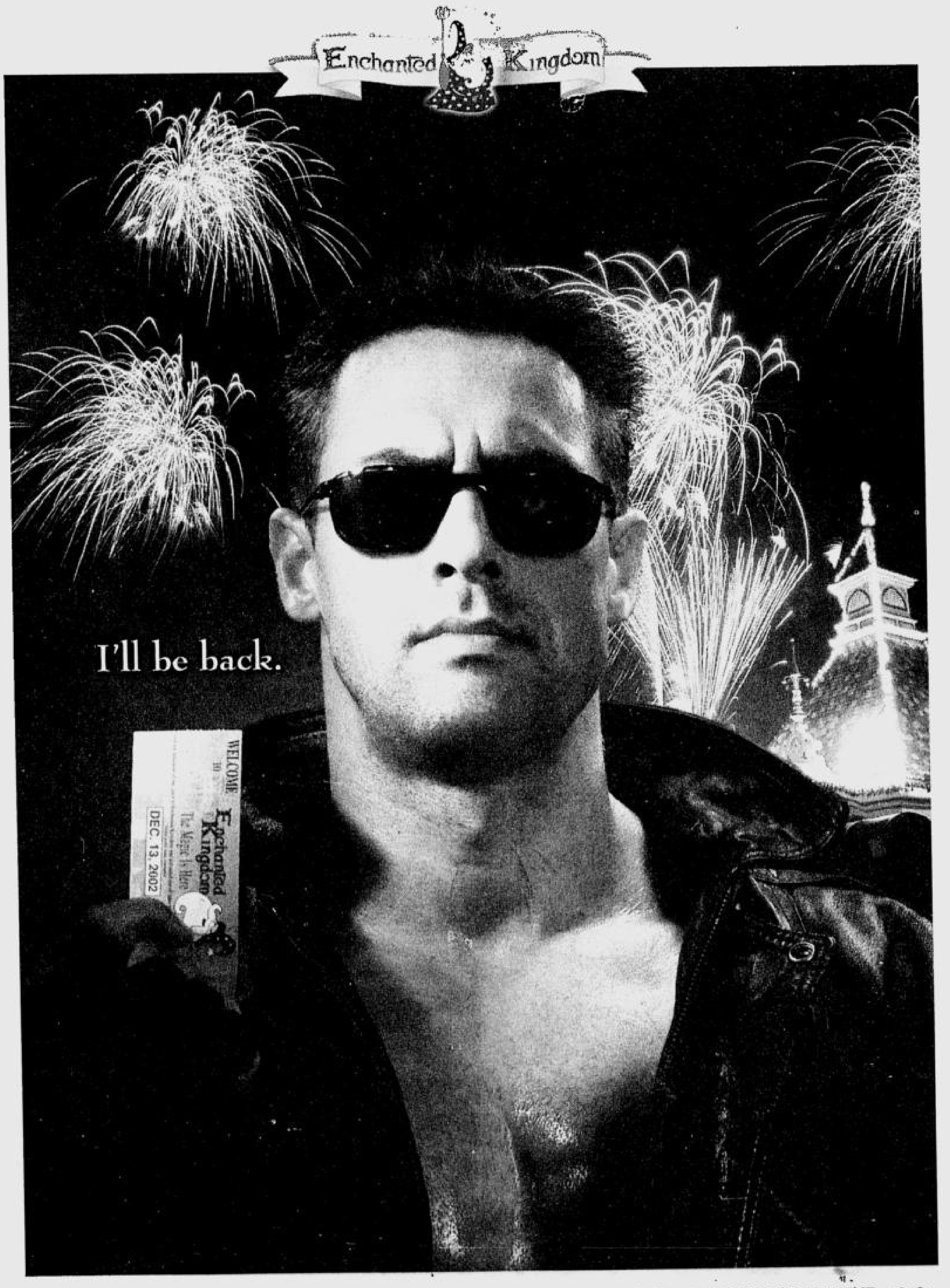

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Ayala-Campos group nears Boni deal

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE AYALA-CAMPOS group and Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. yesterday signed an P800-million refinancing facility tied to the former's overall bid to acquire a majority stake in Fort Bonifacio consortium leader Bonifacio Land Co. for $90 million.

A highly placed INQUIRER source said the refinancing agreement was preparatory to a bigger equity deal that is expected to be signed before the month ends.

Other INQUIRER sources said the Ayala-Campos consortium matched an alternative offer submitted by the group of retail tycoon Henry Sy to fund the Bonifacio Ridge condominium project, located on a 4.1-hectare property near the plush Manila Golf Club.

In a statement, FBDC said the loan would have a term of two years, with an interest rate of 14.5 percent and secured by a real estate mortgage on various lots owned by FBDC with an aggregate area of 4.1 hectares.

FBDC has also granted ALI and the Campos' United Laboratories Inc. an option to undertake development on certain areas yet to be determined within the Fort Bonifacio Global City, but this option must be exercised within two years from the first disbursement of the facility.

This effectively gave the consortium a headstart in later on acquiring a controlling equity in BLC.

The option means that the Ayala Land Inc.-Unilab consortium will have the right of first refusal to acquire a majority stake in the project, although it would involve a separate deal that is still being discussed by the two parties.

Sources from the Ayala group added that a due-diligence audit on FBDC assets was still going on.

The Inquirer earlier reported that the ALI-Unilab consortium had offered $90 million to acquire a 50.4-percent stake in BLC that is, in turn, secured by a loan from parent firm First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong.

BLC, which owns majority of the FBDC—a joint venture with the state-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority—is majority owned by First Pacific property unit Metro Pacific Corp.

The ALI-Unilab consortium earlier offered only P200 million for the Bonifacio Ridge facility but later on decided to match the P800 million offered by Henry Sy's Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

Meantime, industry sources said talks on the acquisition of a 50.4-percent stake in BLC were still pending as the consortium was offering to pay only $90 million or lower than the $109 million needed to wipe out the principal and interest obligations on a loan from First Pacific.

No agreement has been made on the purchase of a majority stake in BLC but since the ALI-Unilab consortium was willing to separately fund the Bonifacio ridge facility, sources said that FBDC might soon decide to accept the $90 million offer as part of the overall package.

The Bonifacio Ridge condominium project is FBDC's first mid-market residential project, located on a prime lot within the Bonifacio Global City's Crescent West neighborhood, adjoining the Manila Golf Club. FBDC began construction of the twin tower Bonifacio Ridge condominium project in May 2000, with completion of the project anticipated in early 2004.

Multitel a trail of excuses and broken promises

By Elena R. Torrijos

(Third of a series)

B-One

"DON'T panic. I know Rose. She will not let us down. Wait for December."

This is the message many agents or "counselors" of Multinational Telecom Investors Corp. have been giving their investors who are now up in arms, demanding at least their principal payments back.

Rosario "Rose" Baladjay, the Multitel group's chair and president, is said to be in hiding after failing to cover promised payments to investors.

"Itong mga counselors pagkausap mo talagang bilib sila kay Rose, na parang magre-resurrect siya (When you talk to the counselors, they really believe in Rose, that she would resurrect herself)," a physician who invested in Multitel said. *"Hanggang ngayon faithful sila kay Baladjay* (Until now, they remain faithful to Rose)."

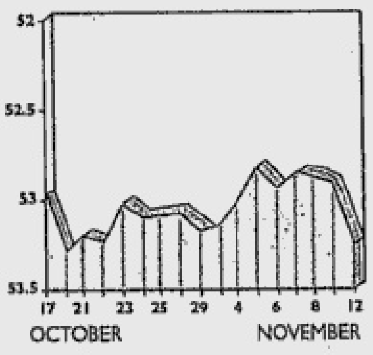
Other investors close to Rose are also confident that their friend will make good on her obligations to them.

One former officemate said Baladjay told him she was really doing all these investments to help the poor, and that hers was a business she inherited from her father who had connections overseas.

"What was 4 percent for P10,000 to help teachers and other small Filipinos?" the officemate quoted Baladjay as telling her when asked what she did with the money she said she was lending to telecommunication companies and cooperatives.

MULTITEL/B6

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 53.27 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 12, 2002

¥ 119.63 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 12, 2002

GOLD: $320.80-321.30

per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 12, 2002

CURRENCIES

Nov. 12, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.987069	1.000000	52.833000
Japan	Yen	0.008243	0.008351	0.441200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.571414	1.592000	84.110100
Hongkong	Dollar	0.126564	0.128222	6.774400
Switzerland	Franc	0.684135	0.693097	36.618400
Canada	Dollar	0.630877	0.639141	33.767700
Singapore	Dollar	0.561154	0.568505	30.035800
Australia	Dollar	0.559658	0.566990	29.955800
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.618360	2.652661	140.148000
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.263219	0.266667	14.088800
Brunei	Dollar	0.558613	0.565931	29.899800
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000109	0.005800
Thailand	Baht	0.022966	0.023267	1.229300
UAE	Dirham	0.268773	0.272294	14.386100
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.013100	53.525100
Argentina	Peso	0.279623	0.283286	14.966800
Brazil	Real	0.280418	0.284091	15.009400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134581	0.136344	7.203500
India	Rupee	0.020483	0.020751	1.096300
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.259790	0.263193	13.905300
Mexico	New Peso	0.095692	0.096946	5.121900
New Zealand	Dollar	0.492550	0.499002	26.363800
Norway	Kroner	0.136521	0.138309	7.307300
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016873	0.017094	0.903100
South Africa	Rand	0.101160	0.102485	5.414600
Korea	Won	0.000824	0.000835	0.044100
Sweden	Kroner	0.109980	0.111421	5.886700
Syria	Pound	0.019166	0.019417	1.025900
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.028728	0.029104	1.537700
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000724	0.000733	0.038700

STOCK MARKET

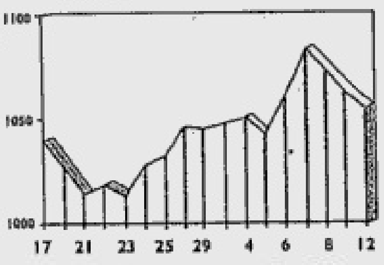
Shares down 0.7%

STOCKS declined for the third straight session yesterday as investors awaited for more third-quarter income results amid market apprehensions over the country's ballooning budget deficit and a possible war in Iraq, analysts said.

The Philippine key index fell 0.75 percent or 8.02 points at 1,055.29 points. Value turnover fell to P251.30 million from Monday's P277.8 million. Losers clobbered gainers 35 to 10 and there were 29

SHARES/ B2

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

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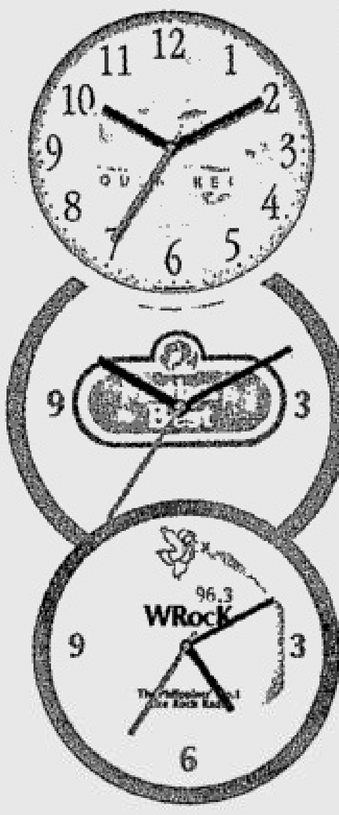

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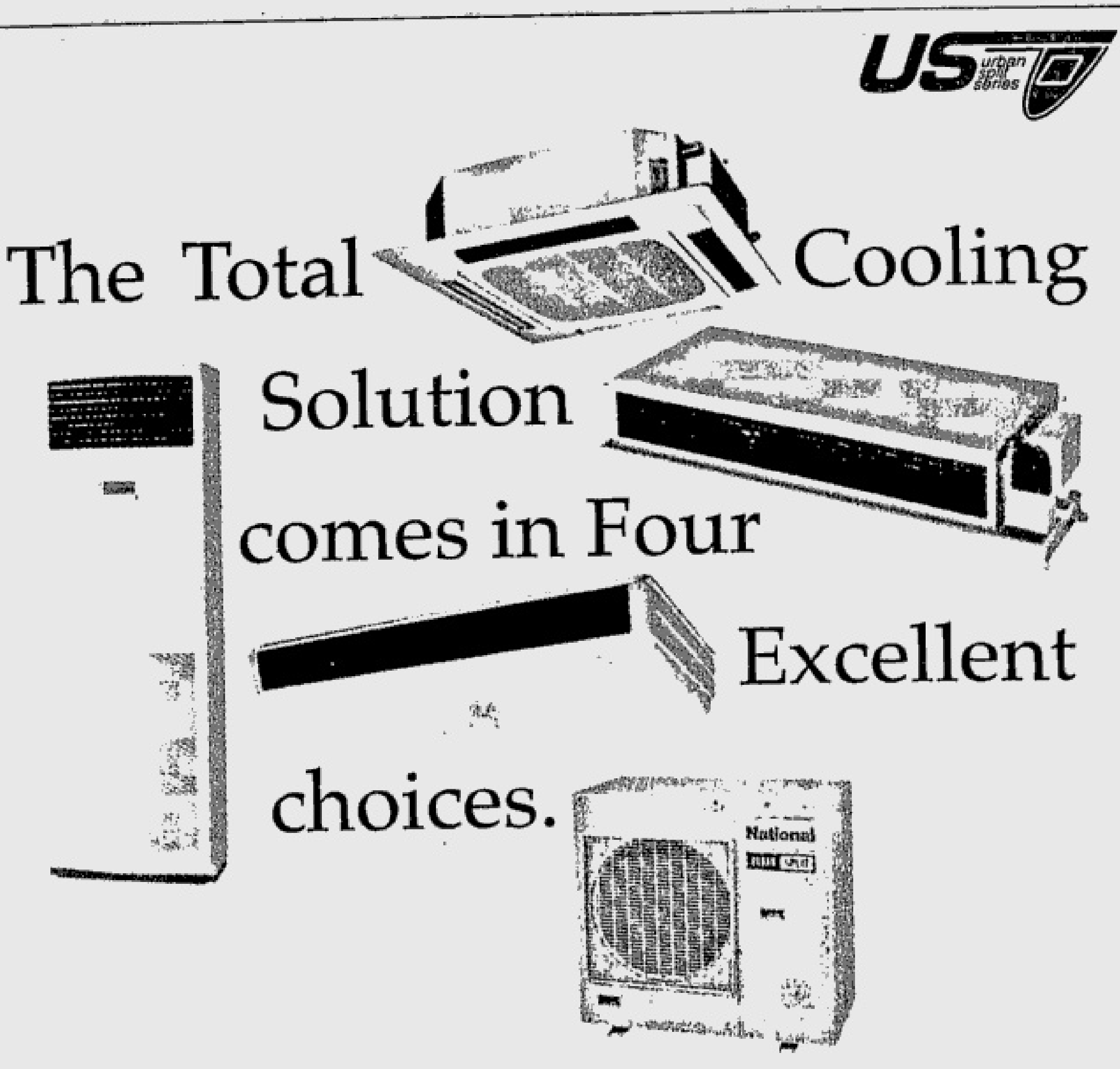
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Ayala Corp. posts 5% profit rise

AYALA Corp. yesterday reported a 5 percent growth in net profits to P2.65 billion in the first nine months of the year from a year ago on the back of robust performances by key subsidiaries, huge capital gains and lower interest expenses.

In a statement, company chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II said he was pleased that the company's key subsidiaries—Ayala Land Inc., Bank of the Philippine Islands and Globe Telecoms—delivered solid results given the challenges in their respective industries.

ALI pumped in P1.62 billion in profits during the nine-month period, 4 percent higher than a year ago while Globe Telecom chalked up P4.3 billion, 29 percent up from last year. On the other hand, BPI's net income slowed down by 13 percent from last year to P4 billion due to the decline in interest margins.

Overall, the company benefited from P2.02 billion in capital gains, most of which were factored in during the first semester of the year.

"But even with the excellent results

AYALA/ B6

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, November 12, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	11,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42	42	41	41.5	550,100
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26.5	27	26.5	27	198,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	31	30	30	280,200
Philippine National Bank	29	29	28.5	29	16,000
Phil. Savings Bank	22	27	22	27	9,000
Security Bank Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	1,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.5	18.75	18.25	18.75	45,400
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1150	1150	1150	1150	1,690
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	40,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	900	900	900	900	790
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17	17	17	17	18,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	500,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	415	415	410	412.5	310
ISM Communications Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	1,400,000
Piltel	0.235	0.24	0.23	0.24	1,500,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	250	252.5	247	250	203,610
Ivantage Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	140,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	8,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	14.25	14	14	55,800
Manila Electric Co. B	18.75	18.75	18	18.25	1,220,200
Petron Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.56	1.58	1,645,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	5,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.24	2.24	2.22	2.22	1,410,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3	3.25	3	3.25	34,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.14	2.14	28,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	14	13.5	13.75	210,900
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	34	34.5	34	34.5	24,000
RFM Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58.5	57.5	58.5	288,200
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	64	62.5	64	999,300
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.55	4.55	1,740,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.38	2.4	2.36	2.4	391,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.2	870,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	50,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	12.5	13	12.5	13	213,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	500,000
Ionics Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.84	1.84	23,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.6	0.61	210,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.35	0.4	0.35	0.4	30,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	100,000
Music Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.09	0.09	1,700,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	700,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.86	1.88	1.86	1.86	40,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	55,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	120,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	280,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	150,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17	17	17	17	44,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series J	10	10	10	10	309
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	80,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5	5	5	1,805,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	2	2	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	350,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	440,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.9	0.91	5,630,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	230,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	3,089,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	5,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	70,000
Omico Corp.	0.0022	0.0022	0.002	0.002	49,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	15,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	22,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,156,180	41,148,550 00
Comm'l & Ind'l	25,429,520	178,700,905.00
PRO	11,654,000	31,026,400.00
Mining	54,370,000	200,900.00
OIL	37,010,000	75,400.00
GRAND TOTALS :	129,619,700	251,152,155.00
AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	406.69	DOWN 0.80
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,469.58	DOWN 11.87
PRO	465.41	DOWN 5.69
Mining	1,098.77	DOWN 17.19
OIL	1.25	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	614.82	DOWN 5.91
Composite	1,055.29	DOWN 8.02

NO. OF ADVANCES: 10; NO. OF DECLINES: 35; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 29;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 74; NO. OF TRADES: 1,416

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of William, Gothong & Aboitiz Inc. has approved the change in its corporate name to Aboitiz Transport Group Inc. Also, the company has declared stock dividends in the form of redeemable preferred shares from the company's existing additional paid-in surplus at the ratio of 1 RPS for every four common shares held by stockholders of record as of Dec. 6.

* * *

EVER-GOTESCO Resources Holdings Inc. has announced that its new stock transfer agent, Securities Transfer Services Inc., shall start servicing its transactions on Dec. 2, 2002.

* * *

FIRST Philippine Holdings Corp. has announced the resignation of Christian Monsod as director of the company.

* * *

INTERPHIL Laboratories Inc. has bought 295,000 of its own shares at P1.866 per share and 185,000 of its "B" shares at P1.9 per share.

* * *

STENIEL Manufacturing Corp. has announced the election of Paul Camangian as director of the company to occupy the vacant seat in the board. Also the board has approved the company's statement of policies and procedures for anti-money laundering.

* * *

BHI Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 18, 10 a.m. at the 18/F of Pearlbank Center, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of Oct. 31 are entitled to vote at the meeting. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Shares down . . .

From page B1

stocks unchanged.

"The budget deficit, weakness in the US economy, and the possibility of war in Iraq have dampened market sentiment. We expect the market to test the 1,040 support level," BPI Securities stocks analyst Roberto Cano said.

"The market is down because of Iraq and also on technical factors," AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said.

Finance Secretary Jose Camacho said on Monday there were indications that government revenues in October fell short of the target of P38 billion for the month, but stressed that the figures were very preliminary.

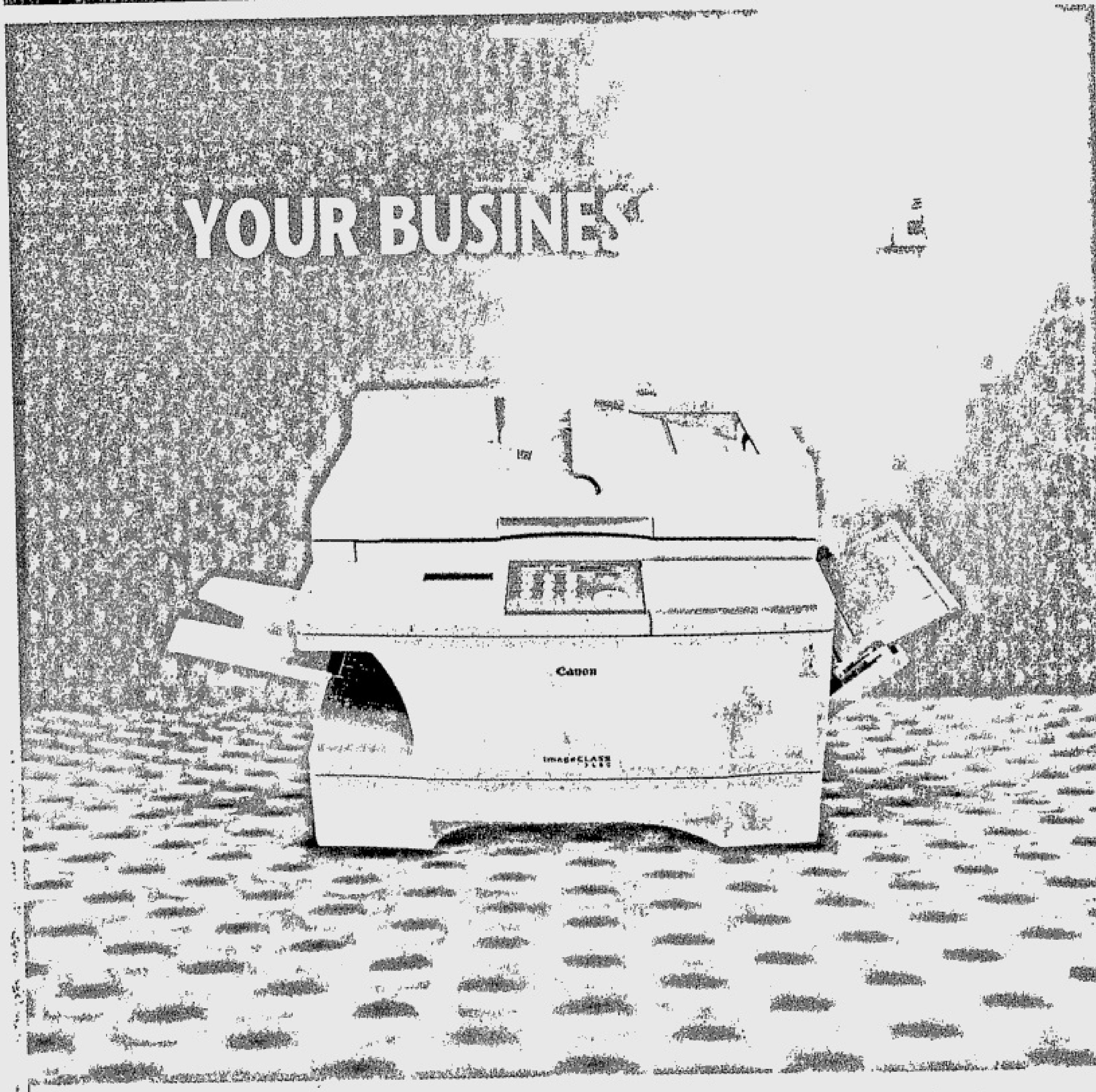
The government has revised upwards its full-year budget deficit to 4.5 percent of gross domestic product, or around P175 billion to P180 billion, after the nine-month budget deficit of P166.47 billion topped a revised estimate of 4 percent of GDP.

Profit-takers sold down select blue chips led by telecom giant PLDT, power distributor Meralco, and property giant Ayala Land, Cano said.

Ayala Corp. closed 10 centavos down at P4.55 ahead of the release of third quarter results later yesterday.

Vistan said investors may be anticipating flat earnings from Ayala Corp. after sluggish revenue from some business segments of its real estate unit Ayala Land Inc.

Reuters



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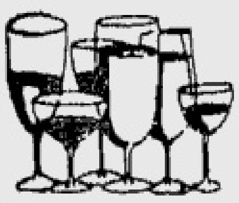
A gay time

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

THE CONTROLLING shareholders in a publicly listed corporation has just elected a known T-bird in their board, apparently to win brownie points for the similarly inclined government official that they had to deal with, specially when asking approval for the long-delayed release of hundreds of millions in cash dividends.

The new board member is in addition to a top corporate, also female, lawyer (who favors wearing pants instead of skirts) that one board faction has been using for their backroom negotiations for the government agency.

What is complicating the situation is that the government official, another she, whom the publicly listed company is trying to win favors from, has her eyes on a young female lawyer instead.

The young lawyer, a graduate of UP Law, at first could not understand why this female commissioner kept on calling her even late at night, ostensibly for "consultations."

The lawyer's senior partners had initially thought of discreetly sounding off the commissioner's chief, another she, but had to back off after realizing, whoops....

The spirit of Asian

IN a mixture of opportunism and public service, Asian Spirit has decided to advance its Manila-Basco inaugural flight to Nov. 20, next Wednesday, instead of Dec. 16, in view of the unfortunate accident involving Laoag Air.

According to an Asian Spirit official, the bulk of Laoag Air passengers are really Batanes-bound, with Laoag merely a stopover to pick up passengers and cargo bound for that idyllic cluster of islands.

Instead of three-decades old Fokker 27s that Laoag Air has been using, Asian Spirit will be flying a 10-year-old Dash-7 de Havilland or a brand-new Spanish-Indon Casa for the Manila-Basco route.

Controlled by the low-key Po family and a number of ex-PAL pilots, Asian Spirit will be flying three times a week, M-W-F, to Basco, with the Wednesday flight making a stopover in the Ilocos Norte capital.

AUV in SUV clothing

THE GUNG-HO Toyota Philippines has loaded the 2003 Revo Asian utility vehicle model with luxury SUV features in answer to the "10-cheater" sports UV that a competition has successfully palmed off as an AUV in a direct challenge to Revo's king-of-the-AUV market title.

The new Revo may not radically depart from this year's looks, but inside, specially the top of the line model, it has got two VCD monitors, leather seats (better quality than Nissan Exalta's, which Cocktales drives), power-everything gadgets, and, most important for Filipino families, rear seats that slide and fold neatly to accommodate balikbayan boxes and sacks of rice.

With the rear and jump seats folded, the fully flat, carpeted floor can be transformed, in a crunch, into a bed to comfortably sleep two adults. (Four, *banig*-style).

In its typical market saturation strategy, Toyota is offering 13 Revo variants, diesel/gasoline, automatic/manual, with prices ranging from P603,000 to P850,000.

Despite being a pure Philippine and Indonesian model, the local Toyota has even decided to cover Revo with a US-style, 3-year, 100,000-kilometer warranty.

"Let's see if the 10-cheater ......can match that," sniffed Daniel Isla, Toyota first vice president/marketing.

His brother's keeper

IF IT were a La Salle term paper, former Education Secretary Andrew Gonzalez would have gotten a fat "zero" for tardiness.

The La Salle brother, who moonlights as president of Don Emilio Yap's publicly listed newspaper, submitted a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange only last Monday, Nov. 11, about the retirement of a senior newspaper executive. (Check out the PSE website, if you doubt this account.)

The problem is that the executive had already retired as of end-October, making the disclosure as irrelevant as the praise releases-masquerading-as-news in the Yap daily.

One of the columnists in the pocket of Yap, incidentally, is Opus Dei's Jesus Estanislao, the champion of corporate governance.

Heard through the grapevine

A COMMERCIAL bank has foreclosed on the Olondriz-Caram ancestral home in Forbes Park, but the aging matriarch has refused to vacate the sprawling property, and has instead taken refuge in the backyard bodega, along with her loyal maid.

The bank is at a loss on how to eject the Basque descendant, ¡no pasaran! it seems is her new battle cry, fearing that it would be seen as a heartless moneylender throwing widows and orphans out on the street.

Why none of the well off siblings would take the down-on-her-luck matriarch under their care is a good question.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

PAL posts 6-month net profit of P946M

FLAG carrier Philippine Airlines (PAL) said yesterday its net income came in at around P946 million ($17.82 million) in the first half of its fiscal year to March 2003 versus a net loss of $3.45 million in the same period last year.

The peso equivalent of 2001 first half net loss was not immediately available.

PAL president Avelino Zapanta told Reuters in an interview that Asia's oldest airline also hoped to exceed its net income target of P1 billion for this fiscal year.

"In the first half, we've been able to make P946 million already. We're few millions short of the one-billion. We're keeping our fingers crossed and we're hoping very much to achieve it. There are several concerns like the possible Iraq war so we can't be sure," he said.

Zapanta said the revenues going forward would be sustained by Filipino workers travelling overseas. PAL posted a first-quarter net income of P983.9 million.

PAL is an unlisted airline controlled by tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan and his group of companies. The government owns just over 4 percent of the carrier.

Reuters

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DHL WORLDWIDE EXPRESS
THE PULSE OF BUSINESS

Nenaco turns around with ₱67-M net profit

By Abigail L. Ho

NEGROS Navigation Co., shipping subsidiary of listed firm Metro Pacific Corp., turned around from a P538-million net loss in the first nine months of 2001 to a P67-million net income in the same period this year.

Its consolidated revenues slightly improved to P1.82 billion from P1.8 billion a year ago, with operating income jumping 67 percent to P373 million from last year's P223 million.

Nenaco chief adviser Seumas Gallacher said in a briefing yesterday that the improved performance could be attributed to Nenaco's "management team that has gotten its act together."

Metro Pacific spokesperson David Nugent said Nenaco's parent firm had informed the shipping firm a few years back that it would no longer give much financial support and that all efforts to turn it around should come from its own people.

"It was clear to them that they would get no money from us and little management support. They also had to turn the company around within a definite timeframe," he said. "But with how it's doing now and if these guys (management) keep doing what they're doing, I can say there will be no sale of Negros anytime soon."

Gallacher added that Nenaco turned around in a record 18 months and it was even on track to exceed its yearend target of breaking even.

10-month 'hot money' inflow up

By Clarissa S. Batino

PORTFOLIO investments in October registered a modest net inflow of $10.7 million, reversing the net outflow of $14 million the previous month as foreign funds trickled back to the local market to take advantage of bargain stock prices and the slight uptick in domestic interest rates due to concerns on the widening budget deficit.

Based on data as of Oct. 25, the level of the so-called hot money registered a net inflow of $192.4 million for this year or 276 percent more than the $51.2 million a year ago.

Still, sources said the hot money inflow was still sluggish as investors remained wary of the country's rising budget deficit and a general uncertainty in placing funds in emerging economies perceived as very risky.

Data submitted to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas by five custodian banks showed that the level of inbound funds from January to October rose by 3.92 percent to $1.128 billion from $1.086 billion a year ago.

On the other hand, the hot money that went out during the same period dropped by 9.53 percent to $935.9 million from $1.034 billion in the first 10 months of 2001.

The inflow of $55.7 million and outflow of $45 million in October were both lower from their month-ago levels of $59.3 million and $83.3 million and even from $60.2 million and $54.3 million a year ago.

Analysts blamed the government's widening deficit of P166.4 billion as of end-September as a major factor triggering widespread uncertainty among portfolio and direct foreign investors.

Financial analysts expect the Philippine budget gap to swell to as much as P200 billion or even more this year, a level exceeding the government's original target of P130 billion, a revised target of about P155 billion and the latest revised target of P175-P180 billion.

With the increasing budget gap, the local fixed-income market continued to drive domestic interest rates higher in October but the government had managed to thwart these attempts as it had borrowed sufficiently in the previous months to cover a deficit of as much as P210 billion this year.

The benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate went up by only 15.4 basis points to 5.374 percent as of Oct. 29 compared to the yield last Sept. 30. Last Monday, the three-month rate fell by 5.4 basis points to 5.32 percent in the absence of other investment opportunities for banks and short-term investors.

The central bank said investors everywhere were confused as to where they would place their funds following an uncertain global situation exacerbated by the corporate scandal that swept the United States in the first half of the year.

Still, the central bank said it was expecting more portfolio funds to come in in the coming months alongside an increase in foreign direct investment as the local economy continues to perform well.

Gross domestic product grew by 4.5 percent in the second quarter while inflation had remained low, averaging at 3.2 percent in the first 10 months. Exports as of September were up by 8.8 percent.

US firm joins oil exploration project in RP

ENERGY firm Unocal Corp. yesterday said its subsidiary Unocal Sulu Ltd. had signed a deal with a local oil exploration group led by Alcorn (Production) Philippines Inc. to study the feasibility of developing a prospect in Northwest Palawan.

Unocal said in a statement that the deal gave the firm an option to farm-in into the consortium's service contract if the study showed favorable findings.

"Phase I of the study is seen to take six to nine months," Unocal said. "This involves seismic data processing and interpretation, geological and reservoir engineering studies and preliminary facilities analysis."

The El Segundo, California-based firm said positive results of Phase I would mean proceeding with Phase II of the study involving more detailed technical analysis and engineering design.

The Galoc oil and gas reserve was discovered in 1981 at 1,100 feet deep and are believed to hold 30-50 million barrels of oil.

Unocal said that the size of the reserve is considered marginal and that, given its deep location, was fit for the firm's "low-cost approach" to this kind of operation.

The Galoc prospect is covered by Service Contract No. 14 held by project operator Alcorn Philippines, Alcorn Gold Resources, Oriental Petroleum and Minerals, Linapacan Oil, Gas and Power, The Philodrill Corp., Altisima Energy, Basic Petroleum and Minerals, Petroenery Resources, Phoenix Energy and Nido Petroleum of Australia.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. hailed the agreement, which he said would bolster the country's thrust on energy security as well as improve its image to investors.

"We are very pleased that another American firm has tied up with our local companies to engage in oil and gas exploration," Perez said.

This sends a strong message to the international community that the country remains a promising oil exploration investment site, he added.

"Given the uncertainties in the lobal oil market, we see the need to further develop and exploit our own resources," the official said.

He noted that the Department of Energy has launched an aggressive marketing campaign to promote the country's petroleum prospects to exploration firms worlwide.

Ronnel W. Domingo

e-Commerce gab set Nov. 20-22

THE PHILIPPINE Internet Commerce Society (PICS), led by its president Mary Anne D. Tolentino, presents the National e-Commerce Congress & Exhibit on Nov. 20-22, 2003 at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Intercon, Makati.

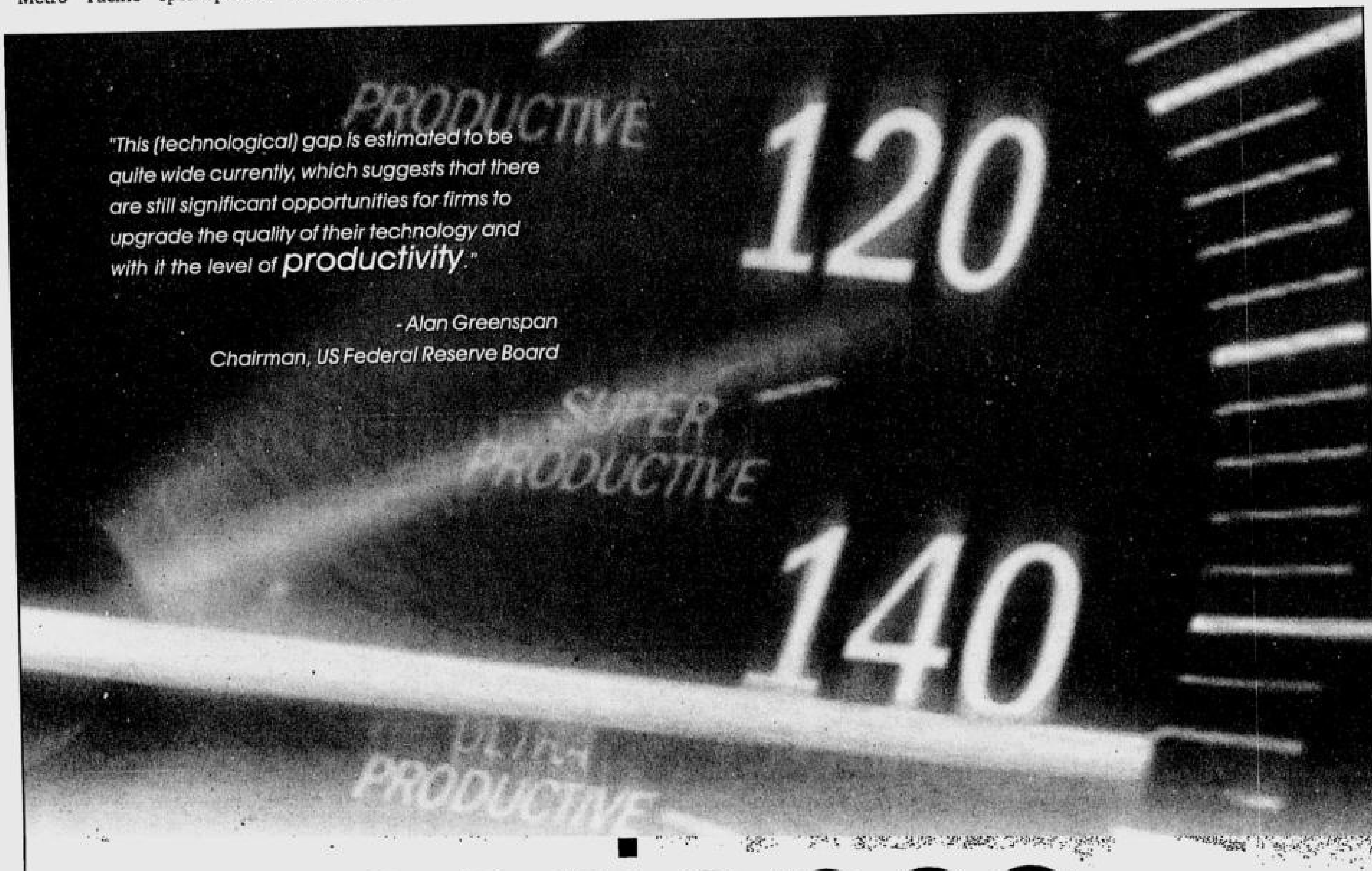
PICS (www.pics.org.ph) the country's premiere e-Commerce organization and leading advocate and resource for the passage of the e-Commerce Act, continues to make a difference in the Philippine IT scene through its various initiatives, activities and events.

Underscoring this year's theme—'Making Business Work in the NOW Economy' and promoting e-commerce as an enabler of economic growth in the country, this year's congress will provide a free exhibit on emerging technologies and innovations along with a conference that will provide in-depth coverage of current business developments in the areas of IT Outsourcing, Wireless, Web Technology, e-Commerce, and, most significantly, e-Governance initiatives and policies.

Leading service providers, IT and management consulting companies, wireless and telecoms providers, training amd education centers, software development companies, e-banking, and government agencies will be providing a preview of the emerging business landscape.

Global business forecasts, industry situationers, market opportunities, technology updates, best practices and industry case studies will highlight this year's comprehensive conference program.

BOI governor and Industry Undersecretary Gregory Domingo, a pioneering E-enablement advocate, will open the conference on Nov. 20.



"This (technological) gap is estimated to be quite wide currently, which suggests that there are still significant opportunities for firms to upgrade the quality of their technology and with it the level of productivity."

- Alan Greenspan
Chairman, US Federal Reserve Board

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PSE, FBDC sign Fort Boni land donation contract

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange and Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. yesterday finally sealed the controversial contract governing the donation of a property to the exchange for its future headquarters and unified trading floor in the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

Amending an earlier commitment of the FBDC to complete the new PSE headquarters by 2004, the final contract allows a longer development period of seven years more from contract signing. The final blueprint released yesterday gave the PSE the option to accelerate the construction. It also provided FBDC an option to exit from the construction obligation.

The contract was approved recently by the respective boards of the PSE and FBDC, and signed yesterday by PSE chair Vivian Yuchengco, PSE president Ernest Leung and FBDC chair Manuel Pangilinan.

"The development period of seven years takes into consideration a three-year period needed to conceptualize and design the PSE facilities, and an estimated four-year period to complete its construction," the PSE said in a statement.

Following the basic terms approved by the PSE shareholders early this year, FBDC will create a subsidiary that will own the 2,183-sq.m. property in the Global City and the shares of this company will be transferred to the PSE over seven years.

During the seven-year period, FBDC will construct the shell building while the PSE must equip and do the finishing of the property within 18 months. The PSE must occupy the property for at least seven years.

The PSE board earlier ruled out a proposal from the group of minority directors led by former PSE chair Robert Coyiuto Jr. to accelerate the acquisition of the majority stake in the spin-off unit, as this would accelerate costs arising from the payment of donation tax.

The proposed PSE headquarters will have a floor area of 12,000 square meters and a parking bay for 120 vehicles. The budget for the development was set at P250 million.

As the developer, FBDC was given the "build out option" to increase the area by 12,000 sq.m. for its own use, but separate entrances and exits should be provided to accommodate the two separate sections. The PSE will have the naming rights to the building.

In case FBDC would choose not to construct the building by the end of the fourth year, it would have to immediately transfer the remaining shares in the spin-off unit to the PSE. In this case, FBDC will be released from the obligation to construct the building but PSE will have full control of the spin-off company owning the land. The PSE, however, will be required to construct its headquarters and occupy it for five years.

The PSE may also choose to accelerate the completion of the donation by relieving the FBDC of its obligation to construct. However, the exercise of this option will require the construction of the building by the PSE, by itself or with a joint venture partner, within one year. The PSE was also given a "shortfall option," which will require the FBDC to buy up to 4,000 square meters of the property from the PSE under certain conditions.

AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS' VISIT
Waagner-Biro Philippines Inc.(WBPI), a subsidiary of Waagner-Biro Bruckenbau AG of Austria, recently played host to Austrian Ambassador Christian Krepela (2nd from left) and Austrian Trade Commissioner Wolfgang Harwalik (extreme right, partly hidden) during an official visit to WBPI facilities. The company manufactures and supplies the modular steel bridges that are used in President Macapagal-Arroyo's Bridges Program. WBPI officials, recently played host to Austrian Ambassador Dr. Christian Krepela (2nd from left) and Austrian Trade Commissioner Dr. Wolfgang Harwalik (extreme right, partly hidden) during an official visit to WBPI. WBPI officers led by its president Helmut Wuzela (extreme left) updated the visiting officials about the latest developments in the Austria-assisted Bridges Program in the Philippines.

GMA 7 sees 17% rise in revenues

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

GMA Network Inc. is bucking an industry-wide slump with robust revenue growth this year with its top-rating shows and savvy marketing strategies pushing the broadcast firm closer to toppling industry leader ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. from the top spot.

GMA chair Felipe L. Gozon said: "We are well ahead of our growth targets in revenues and ratings this year and it is just a matter of time that we will be No. 1. ABS-CBN is a formidable foe but it is not unbeatable."

GMA expects revenues to increase by 17 percent to a record P3.54 billion this year from P3.023 billion last year. GMA Marketing and Production Inc. president Manuel P. Quiogue said the company's strong growth was more significant in the face of an average 11 percent drop in total industry revenues during the first nine months this year. Quiogue said quality programming and strategic marketing moves had allowed GMA to corner a bigger share of the shrinking TV ad revenues.

Revenues have increased mainly as a result of GMA's surge in the ratings game where it was now neck-and-neck with ABS-CBN in the morning (6 a.m. to 12 noon) and afternoon (12 noon to 6 p.m.) time slots while making some headway in the much-coveted prime time slot (6 p.m. to 12 midnight). In 1998, GMA only had two out of the top 20 prime time programs but a recent survey showed it capturing 11 of the top 20 programs with three programs ("Bubble Gang," "Dragon Ball," and "Sana Ay Ikaw na Nga") barging through the top 10.

"Prime time is ABS-CBN's last stronghold mainly because it has invested earlier in putting up soap operas which have very strong viewer loyalties," Gozon said.

GMA has taken a two-pronged approach in breaking ABS-CBN's lock on prime time. First, it has allocated a bigger budget for its production of soap operas. Second, it has lowered its prime time advertising rates which has allowed its soaps to carry more load than ABS-CBN.

GMA executive vice president Gilberto R. Duavit Jr. said this had resulted to a more cost efficient ad spending for corporations that had responded positively by jacking up their commitments

GMA 7/B7

100 NEW STORES IN '03

Jollibee profit up 23.7%

FAST-FOOD giant Jollibee Foods Corp. posted a 23.7-percent growth in profits to P250 million in the third quarter from the year-ago level, with the strong revenue contribution of flagship Jollibee brand and the Chowking Chinese fast-food brand.

This brought JFC's nine-month earnings to P744 million or 14.9 percent better than the year-ago level, fueling optimism that the company would exceed its projected 15-percent growth in profits for the whole year.

In an investors briefing yesterday, JFC chief finance officer Jose Miguel Navarrete also said the group was planning to open 80 to 100 new stores next year, mostly within the Philippines. For this year, JFC was targeting to open 75 new stores.

For the third quarter, revenues doubled to P4.85 billion from year-ago level, outpacing the 40.4 percent growth in operating expenses to P1.96 billion.

"We did a bunch of price adjustments which resulted in an increase in operational margins. We also benefited from cost containment measures to offset increase in fuel, utility, rental and labor costs. The peso-dollar exchange rate was also within our control," Navarrete said.

He also noted that JFC had benefited from the significant interest expense savings brought about by the conversion of the P850-million loan with Japan's Bank for International Cooperation from a fixed rate to a floating rate facility.

To date, JFC's revenues stood at P13.63 billion or 92.3 percent better than last year's level while operating expenses expanded by 39.9 percent to P5.88 billion.

JFC operates the largest fast-food chain in the country, with a total of 838 restaurants in the Philippines and 28 overseas. Of the total, 423 are Jollibee stores, 203 are Chowking, 186 Greenwich outlets and 26 Delifrance stores.

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Gov't steps up bid to regulate text-based games

THE GAMES and Amusement Board and the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board are hooking up with the Department of Trade and Industry in an intensified campaign to regulate text-based gaming and marketing.

The trade department, which is in charge of the campaign as the government's consumer watchdog, has already exchanged notes with the National Telecommunications Commission on ways to rein in the text—or short messaging—service providers Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc.

Assistant Trade Secretary Ferdinand Hernandez said the GAB and MTRCB would join the DTI and NTC on Friday to delineate the areas of jurisdiction among all concerned agencies to ensure a coordinated crusade.

Hernandez said the DTI invited the GAB to join the campaign because it was responsible for regulating all gaming activities in the country.

Text-based games are interactive gambling activities because mobile phone users place their bets through text messages they send to join the contest.

Congress is currently investigating Smart and Globe to determine whether their text-based games should be classified as gambling.

Hernandez said while text-based games were basically promotion strategies to spur users to send more messages (at P10 per sent message), there was still the wagering element in these games that needed to be monitored by agencies such as GAB.

Sweet Greens: A partnership rooted in hope

By Corrie S. Narisma

SUCCESS STORY

MILAGROS Locsin-Kilayko and Ma. Theresa Sarabia-Lacson are two Negrenses who refused to give up on their province even when it went flat broke in the late 1980s after sugar prices plummeted to historic lows.

Negros used to be a monocrop province with its entire population totally dependent on sugar. Its people knew no other major source of livelihood but planting, harvesting and milling sugar. So, when the sugar crisis struck, 80 percent of its population fell into poverty.

Others left the province but not the likes of longtime friends Kilayko and Lacson, wife of former Negros Gov. Daniel Lacson, who never lost hope in their province and its people's capability.

"It was really hard. We had no handicrafts, no other industries to speak of in those years," Kilayko said.

It was this difficult situation that prompted these women to take the plunge into a business that had nothing to do with sugar for they knew it was high time for Negros and its people to diversify.

Big leap

With the objective of helping change the lives of the rural folks in the province, Kilayko and Lacson first tried the T-shirt printing business in 1988. Theirs were no ordinary T-shirts but ones that hoped to lift the spirits of the Negrenses through prints that carried messages such as "There is hope in Negros."

The real business was born in 1990, when Kilayko and Lacson formed Sweet Greens Co., a partnership registered with both the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Department of Trade and Industry.

Now a highly diversified company known for its beautiful flowers and quality ceramics products, Sweet Greens started as a backyard flower farming venture using a leased former sugar land in Talisay.

With only two helpers, Kilayko and Lacson personally managed the company's operations. Initially, they had only their neighbors and friends for their market.

Later, people started coming to buy flowers for resale. Soon after, the partners established retail outlets not only in Negros but also in Cebu, Bacolod and Iloilo.

"We were already doing very well and that seemed enough for me. We never thought of expanding further," Kilayko said.

Big break

Kilayko and Lacson were convinced they were already happy with what they got when, in 1999, a big opportunity came their way. A ceramic factory near their farm was offered for sale.

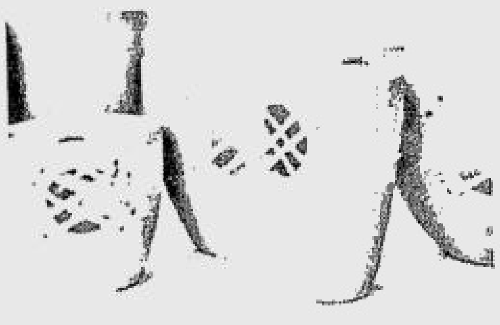
"It was offered to us. I hesitated, but God sent me the signs to go ahead and buy it, not once or twice but three times," Kilayko said. The signs, she said, all came in the form of verses in the Bible.

The partners bought the ceramics factory, and good things began happening one after another since then. In the same year, the company found itself already joining a trade fair, where its "ikebana" pots won in the product design competition. Sweet Greens' pots again won the same honors the following year in the same fair. It was during that time, when the pots caught the interest of a designer who later came to Sweet Greens' factory and advised the partners to go into more stylish ceramic products and home accessories.

The company kept a display of its ceramics in a showroom maintained by the Association of Negros Producers in the province, and it was there where it got an invitation to participate in an annual fair in Milan. Sweet Greens decided to join the Milan fair together with other Negros producers and that opened for the company the doors to the export market.

Consistent winner

To come with the ceramics, the company also started producing candles. The clay and candle combination—in the form of high-fashion vases, votive and vessels, and other decorative items—have been consistently winning not only design excellence awards but, more importantly, the hearts of foreign and domestic buyers.



SWEET Greens' award winners: High-fashion vases, votive and vessels

The company that began in the two women's backyards now operates a three-hectare farm planted to flowers and ornamental crops, a ceramic and candle-making factory, and sales outlets in the Visayas.

It supplies major retailers in the country, and has been exporting to Europe, the United States and Canada.

It now provides jobs to more than 100 employees and subcontractors, and business activity to entrepreneurs who market their products in various areas.

Kilayko and Lacson can now rightfully claim they are already made in the world of business as they have already fulfilled their dream of helping change the lives of many Negrenses for the better.

The two and several other Negrenses who, like Kilayko and Lacson, kept their unwavering faith in their province and in themselves, were instrumental in helping the province rise from the slump.

GMA to decide on used truck imports; DTI still split over issue

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will decide on the issue of second-hand, light truck imports, as officials of the Department of Trade and Industry remain sharply divided on whether to liberalize or continue to restrict the entry of these vehicles.

A source said Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II decided to toss the issue to the President.

Roxas said he declined to recommend a policy because of the opposing positions among DTI officials on the issue.

The President ordered the trade department last month to firm up the government's policy on used vehicle imports because of mounting complaints from assemblers that were losing market share to second-hand vehicle traders operating out of the Subic Bay Freeport.

In response, Roxas promised a selective ban on used imports where only special purpose vehicles, such as ambulances, cement mixers and automobiles brought in through the "*balikbayan*" program, were allowed to be brought in.

The policy dispute arose when the DTI's Consumer and Trade Welfare Group proposed to allow trucks weighing at least 4.5 tons and buses weighing at least 6 tons to provide small and medium enterprises and local government units with affordable means of transportation.

Currently, only trucks weighing at least 6 tons and buses weighing at least 12 tons can come into the country freely.

The Truck Manufacturers Association warned that lowering the weight limits on trucks and buses would mean the liberalization—not tightening—of used vehicle imports. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Multitel...

From page B1

This was the same line given to virtually all the other investors.

Once, Baladjay told her ex-officemate, "Today, I can guarantee P50 billion."

Breaching a deal

Last month, Multitel lawyer Vicente Millora told the Securities and Exchange Commission that Multitel and Multitel International Holdings Inc. hired top accounting firm SGV & Co. to review the assets and liabilities of Multitel and related enterprises with the view of regularizing the group's operations.

He deplored the Securities and Exchange Commission's recent raid of the group's offices, given that "it was the clear understanding that proceedings affecting our clients would be suspended pending the outcome of the review."

He claimed that the SEC agreed to await the results of the SGV's audit, possibly referring to a visit Baladjay made to SEC chair Lilia Bautista earlier.

He said the Baladjays had been cooperating with the SEC and maintained Multitel and MIHI had not been accepting any investments from the public and had even announced stopping operations.

SEC officials, however, said word had reached them that Multitel was still continuing its alleged illegal operations.

Excuses

Time and time again, securities regulators have demanded that Baladjay explain exactly how she is investing the money she is getting so that she can get the return she has been promising her investors, but they have been met with unsatisfying answers.

"Well, first Multitel told us they were lending to Latin American companies building telecom facilities. The entity that was supposed to be doing it was registered in the United States. We checked with the US, it does not exist, not even in Latin America," SEC compliance and enforcement director Jose Tomas Syquia told the INQUIRER.

"So we told them it does not exist. Then they said, 'Oh well, actually, we invested it in our resort or this new company which we had, a consultancy, trading company'."

Syquia said the SEC again checked the claim and learned that the company did exist but that it was incorporated only last year.

"They come up with all sorts of excuses. You ask them to show you a company that pays this much, they can show none," he said.

Wrong reports

The SEC is now urging investors to come forward and file their affidavits concerning how they invested in the Multitel group to put the people behind the scheme behind bars.

Documents secured by the SEC's investigators showed that MIHI had been using corporate funds to finance and subsidize the operations and activities of two purportedly related entities, Cellmode Inc. and MMC Holdings Inc.

Based on these documents, MIHI paid for the services of an accounting firm, Diaz Murillo and Dalupan, for Cellmode in 2001 and for the rental of offices occupied by MMC Holdings.

"These subsidies were made by MIHI notwithstanding that, based on Cellmode Inc.'s and MMC Holdings Inc.'s corporate records, MIHI is not a stockholder of either company or are these companies shareholders of MIHI."

The SEC also said there was a misrepresentation of funds in MIHI's books.

According to documents submitted by MIHI itself to the SEC, the company holds investments or equities only in two domestic companies: Multitel Consultancy Group Inc. and Rosegold Hotel & Resort Inc.

In an interview with MIHI officials, however, it was disclosed that MIHI paid for investments in Multitel Communications Corp., RAB Realty Inc. and Richville Travel and Tours Inc. in the aggregate amount of P16.875 million in the name and for the account of Rosario Baladjay.

No documents, however, were presented to show that ownership of these investments had been transferred to MIHI as of the date of the entry in the balance sheet and trial balance.

"Moreover, the P51-million investment in Cellmode International Inc., a corporation incorporated and registered in the British Virgin Islands, appears to be spurious," the SEC said.

"The foregoing shows that MIHI is unable to account for funds amounting to P67.875 million, which were generated from its operations, i.e., investments made by the public," it added.

Violations

The SEC believes that the Multitel group, including conduits Everflow Group of Companies, One-Heart Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc. and Star Enterprise Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc. have violated various provisions of the country's securities laws and the Corporation Code.

According to Section 45 of the Corporation Code, "no corporation shall possess or exercise any corporate powers except those conferred by this Code or by its articles of incorporation and except such as necessary or incidental to the exercise of the powers so conferred."

The SEC says the respective articles of incorporation of MIHI and Everflow show that neither has been authorized to engage in the business of offering or selling investment contracts to the public.

MIHI is registered as a holding company, while Everflow is organized as a management consulting company. Both are even explicitly and specifically forbidden by the terms of their primary purposes to engage in business as a stockbroker or dealer in securities, which cover investment contracts.

Section 8.1 of the Securities Regulation Code, meanwhile, prohibits the sale or distribution of securities in the Philippines without a registration statement duly filed with and approved by the commission.

Unregistered counselors

The investment contracts or securities that the Multitel group has been offering to the investment public are neither registered nor are they exempt from the registration requirement.

The agents or "counselors" that Everflow, Oneheart and Star—Multitel conduits—have also not been registered with the commission as securities salesmen or associated persons, in violation of Sections 28.1 and 28.2 of the Securities Regulation Code.

"MIHI, Everflow, Oneheart and Star have deceived the investing public in the course of offering for sale or selling MIHI's investment contracts by representing to its investors that they are legally authorized to solicit and accept investments from the public and to enter into investment contracts, despite knowing fully well that the securities they offer for sale or sell are unregistered and that they themselves are not authorized securities brokers or dealers and cannot be registered as such," the SEC said. *(To be continued)*

Ayala Corp. ...

From page B2

from our telecommunications business, Ayala may not be able to sustain the earnings momentum that we generated in the first half of the year due to continued industry weakness in property and banking," Zobel de Ayala said.

"However, if general economic conditions rebound quickly, then these businesses will be likely to benefit significantly due to their dominant competitive positions," he explained.

During the first nine months of the year, the conglomerate posted consolidated revenues of P22.5 billion against P21.2 billion a year ago, while consolidated expenses slowed down to P19.2 billion from P20.7 billion last year.

Zobel de Ayala said the group would prioritize maintaining a strong credit standing and financial health.

"We need to effectively insulate ourselves from possible domestic and international shocks while still allowing for the opportunity to access opportunities if these arise. We will continue to strengthen our balance sheet and maximize the available opportunities to reduce or refinance our debt in accordance with out medium-term plan," he said. *Doris Dumlao*

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Canlubang	450,000	550,000
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Capitol Hills	-	110,000
Celebrity Sports Club	180,000	200,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	105,000
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	-	210,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	280,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	280,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	235,000	260,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	280,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	Please Call	12,550,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,000,000	Please Call
Manila Polo	Please Call	-
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	600,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	Please Call	700,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	Please Call
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	120,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	150,000
Mimosa (Individual)	-	120,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	35,000
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	Please Call	330,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Punta Fuego	-	Please Call
Quezon City Sports Club	195,000	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	320,000	450,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	90,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,400,000	1,550,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,800,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	Please Call	780,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	140,000	170,000
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FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY

Telecom firms go slow on capex

By Abigail L. Ho

EQUIPMENT provider Nortel Networks said local telecommunications firms have become "cautious" in allocating additional capital expenditures for new technology even if some of their existing infrastructure were no longer efficient.

In a news briefing yesterday, Nortel Phil. managing director Antonio Pio de Roda said local carriers were not that keen on investing in technology like voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) as there was still no immediate need to expand their capacity, considering the current landline glut.

VoIP, or Internet telephony, refers to communications services such as voice and fax that are transported via the Internet instead of the public switched telephone network (PSTN).

With the current overcapacity in fixed line, Pio de Roda said telecommunications firms did not see the need to boost their voice capacity through the addition of VoIP to their suite of services.

"There's no driving force to implement VoIP right away, on the part of the carriers. Because times are tough, they're cautious with their investments. They'll delay what additional capex they can delay," he said.

He added that even if the carriers' existing private branch exchange (PBX) set-ups were not as efficient and cost-effective as new VoIP equipment, "they make do and delay additional capex."

A PBX is a private telephone network used within an enterprise or, simply put, something like a trunkline.

Nortel senior manager for Asean channel business development Pamela Tham said using VoIP equipment instead of the traditional PBX could slash at least 30 percent to 40 percent off a company's operating costs.

Although the cost of implementing VoIP in an enterprise remained high, at around $500 to $600 per set per user, she said long-term savings would more than make up for the company's initial investment on these equipment.

She explained that the high cost was due to the novelty of the VoIP technology.

For its VoIP equipment, Nortel is targeting multi-national companies with offices here, call centers and telecommunications firms.

Napocor coal supply nearing critical level

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NATIONAL Power Corp. yesterday said its coal supply level was nearing critical as the scheduled auctions for P4 billion worth of fresh coal shipments were suspended due to a Malacañang order requiring prospective suppliers to be at least 60-percent Filipino-owned.

A Napocor official familiar with the matter said in an interview that all but one of the power firm's coal suppliers were foreign companies.

These are the suppliers of coal mined in and shipped from China and Indonesia. Coal imported from these countries are used to power the coal plants in Sual, Pangasinan; Pagbilao, Quezon; Masinloc, Zambales, and Naga, Cebu.

Napocor's Calaca plant in Batangas gets its fuel supply from Semirara Mining Corp. in Antique.

"Napocor needs to clarify (some provisions of Executive Order No. 40) with the Department of Budget and Management about the qualified bidders," the official said.

EO 40 signed in October last year set the criteria for participants in the bidding for government supplies as follow: Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship, and partnerships, corporations and joint ventures that are at least 60-percent owned by Filipinos.

Napocor originally planned to hold the first of a series of auctions for coal contracts on Nov. 8.

"The schedule was designed such that the deliveries would start coming in at the beginning of January," the source said. "The remaining supply is good for up to the end of the year."

The official said the power firm could cover up for the delay using optional shipments provided under existing contracts for the 1,200-megawatt Sual plant.

He said two contracts entitled Napocor to buy a total of 260,000 metric tons from China's Shanxi coal mines.

"Although the Shanxi coal is intended for Sual, we can divert 130,000 tons to the 600-MW Masinloc plant," he added. "But that is good for only a month."

WG&A plans to buy back ₱2.5B worth of shares

By Doris C. Dumlao

SHIPPING giant William Gothong & Aboitiz Inc., soon to be renamed Aboitiz Transport Group Inc., is planning to buy back P2.5 billion worth of redeemable preferred shares which will be issued as stock dividends.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, WG&A said its shareholders agreed in a special meeting on Monday to "re-declare" stock dividends in the form of redeemable preferred shares from its existing additional paid-in surplus.

For every four common shares, the company will issue one preferred share which it will buy back at P6.

"This means that the common shares are undervalued," Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said.

WG&A shares closed at P3.25 at the PSE yesterday.

"It is good for the stockholders because it will enhance the marketability of the shares. It is a way to take cash out of the corporation," Roxas explained.

The transaction will involve approximately 374.5 million redeemable shares. Earlier, the Securities and Exchange Commission approved the redemption of these shares at a minimum of P6 over a maximum period of 10 years. For every calendar year, a minimum of P250 million worth of shares will be up for redemption.

"The corporation plans to redeem approximately P2.5 billion of redeemable preferred shares as quickly as possible depending on the corporation's cash flow and financial condition," the disclosure said.

The Aboitiz family earlier bought out the 61-percent combined stake held by the Chiongbian and Gothong families in WG&A, the country's largest shipping firm. This raised its stake to close to 92 percent from 31 percent and resolved a boardroom struggle that had dragged on for months.

The change in corporate name will reflect the group's takeover of a dominant stake in the company.

GMA 7 ...

From page B5

by up to 70 percent from last year.

Duavit said GMA had spent much less than what it had anticipated in boosting its programming and facilities to broaden its coverage. "We thought then that it would take between P5 billion and P10 billion to be number one. Now, were doing fine with our P1.9-billion loan which we signed two years ago," Duavit said. GMA will spend P200 million in capital expenditures next year.

Gozon said GMA 7 could achieve its goal of getting pole position in the ratings game even without a new investor coming in. Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. had aborted its planned buy-in into GMA last year because of financial difficulties.

Gozon said that despite GMA's ambitions, the company had remained prudent with its finances. "You know what happens to companies when they over borrow," said Gozon who was wary of the financial woes of rival ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and its parent Benpres Holdings Corp.

Gozon said GMA preferred to raise funds through an initial public offering and it was only waiting for better times to sell its shares.

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Hong Kong world's freest economy; Singapore No. 2

HONG KONG—Hong Kong has retained its ranking as the world's freest economy for a ninth consecutive year, but regional rival Singapore is breathing down its neck, a survey found on Tuesday.

Hong Kong lost some marks in the survey due to higher government spending, while Singapore gained ground thanks to a tax cut, leaving a marginal gap.

The survey was carried out by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative US think tank, and The Wall Street Journal.

The foundation said it was heartened that economic freedom around the world advanced during the last year despite global economic turbulence.

It said 74 of the 156 countries covered by the study became more economically free in the year to June and 49 became less free.

New Zealand held on to its third ranking, joined by an improving Luxembourg, while Ireland rose to fifth.

Denmark, Estonia and the United States were tied for sixth, while Australia and Britain shared ninth place.

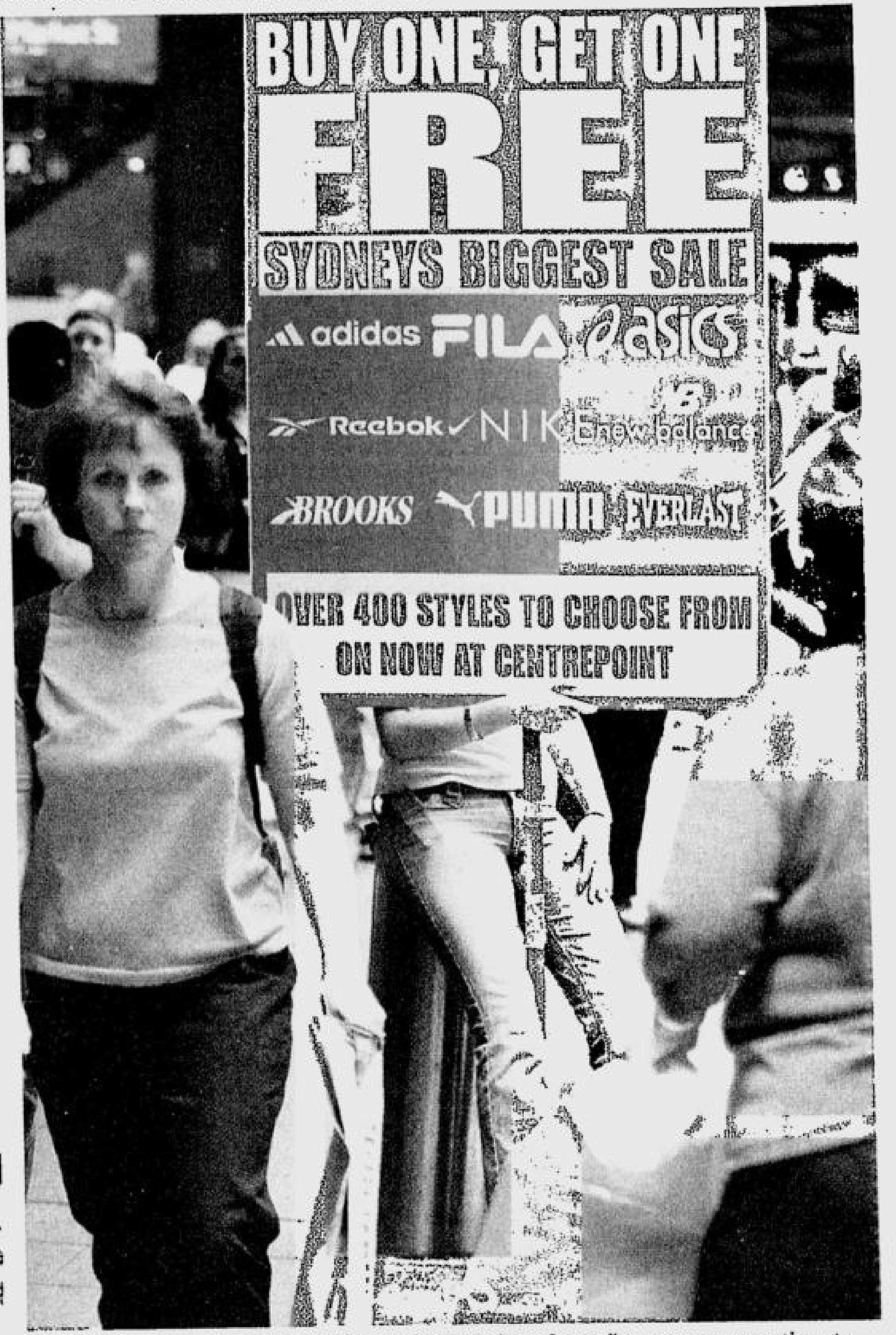
At the other end of the scale, North Korea was the world's least free economy, followed by Cuba, Zimbabwe and Laos.

The Heritage Foundation said Asia continued to host a mixture of the world's freest and most repressed economies, with four countries in the top 10, but Laos, Burma, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and North Korea among the least free.

The foundation said the Asia-Pacific experience underscored its major finding—that countries with the most economic freedom enjoy higher rates of long-term economic growth.

"Countries willing to unleash their economies invariably raise their standard of living," the editors of the index said in a statement.

But the study said pervasive corruption and cronyism meant most countries in the Asia-Pacific region continued to fall short of their potential. *AFP*



SHOPPERS walk past a sign advertising a sale in Sydney. Australian consumers continue to spend despite warnings that economic growth will slow as the nationwide drought has an impact. AFP

HP president leaves; WorldCom in sights

NEW YORK—Hewlett-Packard president Michael Capellas is quitting, the computer giant said on Monday, as speculation mounted he would take the reins at embattled telecoms group WorldCom.

Capellas was leaving "to pursue other career opportunities," Hewlett-Packard said in a written statement, without giving further details.

His position as president would not be filled, it said. The loss of Capellas sent Hewlett-Packard shares sliding 11 percent.

Capellas' departure coincided with reports that he was the front runner to take over as chair and chief executive of WorldCom, which is struggling to emerge from bankruptcy.

WorldCom's board informally "signed off" on choosing Capellas, as the successor of departing WorldCom chief executive John Sidgmore, The Wall Street Journal said, quoting people familiar with the matter.

Capellas was favored because of the clout he could bring to the scandal-tainted telecoms group, the paper said.

But "we are at least a few days away and maybe a week away" from naming a new chief executive, "and it may not be him," the paper quoted someone close to the search as saying.

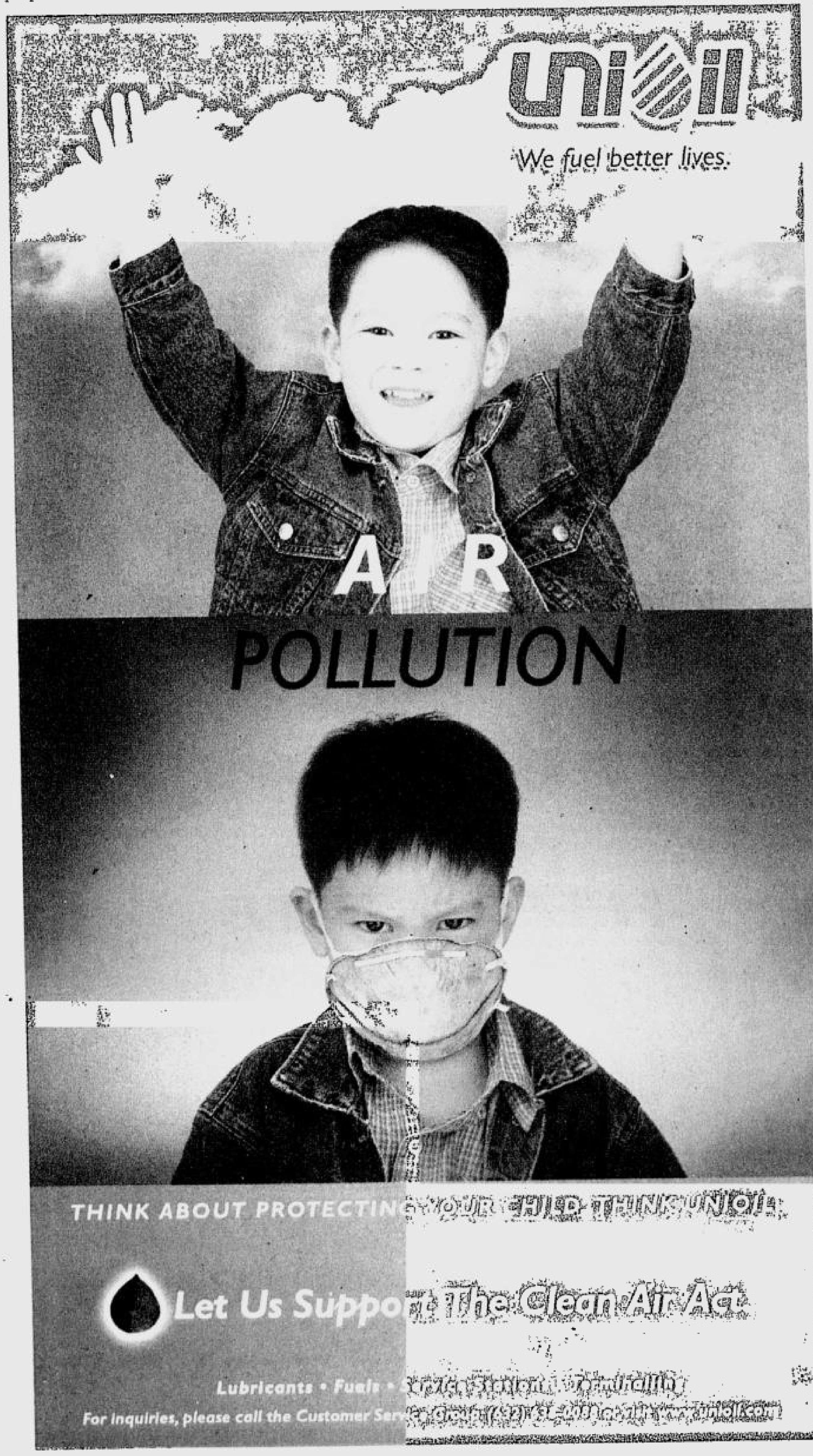
Other candidates being considered for WorldCom's top job included XO Communications Inc. chair Dan Akerson and BellSouth Corp. vice chair Gary Forsee, US newspapers said.

Capellas was previously chair and chief executive of computer group Compaq. He became president of Hewlett-Packard after Compaq merged with Hewlett-Packard.

He would face a daunting task at WorldCom, which was working under court supervision to survive as a restructured company after applying July 22 for bankruptcy protection.

It became the biggest such case in US corporate history. *AFP*

CAPELLAS: Leading candidate to take over troubled WorldCom Inc. AP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Analysts see Japan unleashing forex intervention to little effect

TOKYO—Japan's Finance Ministry is likely to match words with action if the dollar weakens much further, but its trusty old weapon of market intervention could prove blunt without more extreme steps, analysts say.

Concern that a less competitive yen will put the brakes on an already frail recovery has brought the usual drumbeat of warnings from finance ministry officials that precede intervention to sell the yen and buy dollars.

Few doubt that action will follow if the current trend continues, but with dollar sentiment beset by anxiety as the US economy struggles and war in the Gulf approaches, it may be a temporary brake on the yen's climb.

"We can pretty firmly say it will not have anything but a short-term impact," said Frank Packer, an economist at Nikko Salomon in Tokyo.

"If it were to be combined with a very firm signal of a change in monetary policy on the part of the Bank of Japan ... it would be much more likely to be successful. That's probably not on the cards, at least not in the near term," Packer said.

One option Japan has up its sleeve is to leave any intervention "unsterilized," meaning that the money it uses to buy dollars would stay in the banking system and mark a further easing in the BOJ's ultra-loose monetary policy.

That, analysts say, would send a strong signal to markets, but it also seems unlikely given the lack of recent policy coordination between the Finance Ministry and Bank of Japan.

The last time they acted in harmony was after the Sept. 11 attacks, and while the dollar's fall is threatening to remove the export prop from Japan's fragile recovery there is no comparable sense of crisis at the moment.

"The policy they seem to fall back on all the time is inaction rather than action ... Until they aggressively start to expand the money base, dollar-yen is going to struggle," said Richard Yetsenga, a currency strategist at Deutsche Bank in Sydney. *Reuters*

PEOPLE walk under an electronic share price board flashing under 229 points in downtown Tokyo. AFP

Ignoring skeptics, Microsoft makes a big bet on Tablet PC

SAN JOSE, California—After years of promises, Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates is betting his company's money and his vision of computing on the launch of a new generation of portable computers.

Microsoft has reportedly spent $400 million developing the technology behind "Tablet PCs."

Microsoft is spending some $70 million on marketing, including the lavish launch event in New York.

All the tablets weigh about 3 pounds (1.3 kilograms) and are about the size and shape of a standard ultralight notebook. They have swiveling screens that can be written on with a pen-like stylus.

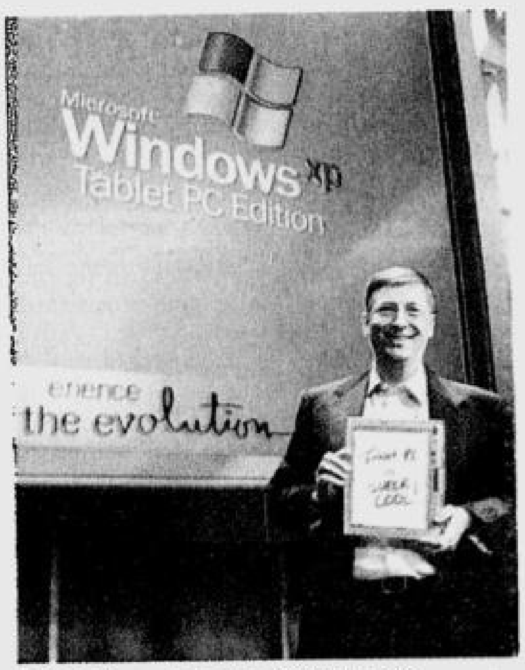
The tablets are based on one of two designs, with a few mixing elements of both. Some are only tablets, with no input device other than the digital pen.

Others are notebook computers in which the keyboard can be folded away and the screen used for entering data.

Others still can be docked into a unit that provides network connections or additional PCs.

Japan's Toshiba, Fujitsu and NEC are on board, as is Korea's Samsung and Taiwan's Acer.

Notably absent is consumer electronics giant Sony Corp., which abandoned its own Vaio Slimtop Pen Tablet, a desktop with a touch-screen monitor, early this year. *AP*



BILL Gates, chair and chief software architect of Microsoft Corp., displays a Tablet PC at the product launch event in New York City. AFP

War hangs over global economy in '03–BIS

MEXICO CITY—The global economy is set for recovery next year, once uncertainties surrounding the possibility of a war on Iraq are resolved, the head of the Bank of International Settlements said on Monday.

Andrew Crockett said after a meeting of central bankers in Mexico City a number of uncertainties still surround the speed of recovery in the global economy, which had been hoped for in 2002, but is now expected for next year.

"Despite the fact that there are a number of uncertainties in the global economy and in particular there are uncertainties surrounding the geopolitical situation . . . once those uncertainties are overcome, conditions are in place for a recovery to take hold during the course of next year and gather strength as the year proceeds," Crockett told a news conference.

He used the term "geopolitical situation" to respond to a question about how the world economy was reacting to the United States' threats to attack Iraq.

Officials of the Basel-based Bank for International Settlements, which is a kind of central banks' central bank, were in Mexico for its bimonthly meeting and also to open a regional office to coordinate its activities across the Americas.

Among those at the BIS meeting in Mexico City were US Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, European Central Bank President Wim Duisenberg, Brazilian Central Bank President Arminio Fraga, Argentine Central Bank chief Aldo Pignanelli, Mexican Central Bank Governor Guillermo Ortiz.

Crockett said Latin America was the region that has seen the most downward revisions in economic growth forecasts this year.

He said the best road forward for Latin America was to stick to sound economic policies and to make intentions clear so that investors could see how one country's situation differs from those that are in difficulties. *Reuters*

Mitsubishi back in black

TOKYO—Restructuring Mitsubishi Motors Corp. said on Tuesday it drove back into the black for the past six months saved by a softer yen, cost cuts and robust sales abroad, which offset slumping demand for its cars at home.

Japan's fourth-largest automaker, owned 37 percent by DaimlerChrysler AG, said group net profit came to 6.64 billion yen ($55.45 million) for the April-September period, versus a loss of 31.50 billion yen a year earlier.

Sales rose 5.6 percent to 1.62 trillion yen.

On the back of continued strength in the key US market and an expected turnaround in Japan led by the just-launched Colt subcompact, Mitsubishi projected net profit would more than triple during the full year to March to 38 billion yen.

Operating profit, which is a better gauge of an automaker's fundamental strength, was 23.48 billion yen in the first half, reversing a year-earlier loss of 13.06 billion yen. It is expected to reach 77 billion yen for the full year.

"We have made steady progress in our turnaround plan and worked hard to improve profitability. Thus we have achieved our profit goal for the six months," the company said in a statement.

Analysts have said the key now for Mitsubishi will be whether it can steer domestic sales out of a slump. With its successful truck business to be split off in two months, the automaker faces a test of whether it can keep up in its mainstay car segment.

Mitsubishi, which like most Japanese automakers makes most of its money in North America, has seen its domestic sales fall every month for over two years due to a paucity of new models and a sluggish overall market.

What's more, over half the cars sold in Japan now are 660cc minivehicles, which are cheaper and yield thin profit margins.

Mitsubishi said it now expects to sell 1.466 million vehicles worldwide in the year to March, up slightly from its previous forecast of 1.463 million.

It expects sales in Japan to total 435,000 units instead of the May forecast of 477,000, and overseas sales to reach 1.031 million units instead of 986,000.

The automaker also changed its assumption for the dollar's exchange rate for the year to 121 yen from 120 yen, and the euro to 114 yen from 110 yen. *Reuters*

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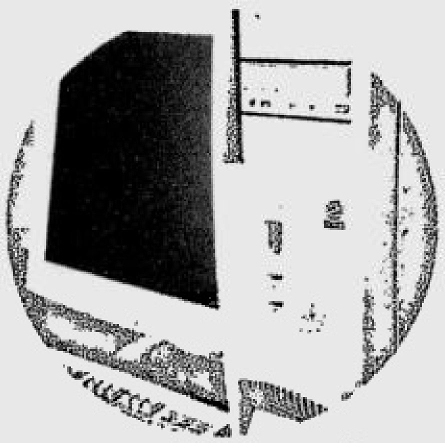

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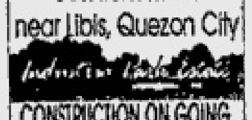

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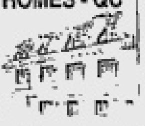

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Notice is given that the estate of the late AGRIPINA B. RODRIGUEZ consisting of real property was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc 151079 Page 35 Bk 2 S of 2002 of the R.P. Consulate, Malaysia & Doc 483 Page 98 Bk XXIV S of 2002 of Notary Public Rodolfo C. Sabio of QC (PDI-Nov. 6,13&20,2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Sps. Antonio P. Martin & Araceli B. Martin who died on Sept. 3, 2002 & March 13, 2002 has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc. # 465; Page # 93; Book XVIII; Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Ruth R. Aldaba of Las Pinas City.
(PDI-Nov. 13, 20 & 27, 2002)

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NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late DIEGO H. GUTIERREZ was settled extrajudicially by the heirs as per deed of extrajudicial settlement and adjudication per Doc. No. 320, Page No. 64, Book No. V, Series of 2002, before Atty. Jinky H. Cruz, Notary Public, Manila.
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Notice is hereby given
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CNN says no serious talks with ABC

NEW YORK—The head of CNN said on Monday there had been no "serious meetings" on a merger between CNN and Walt Disney Co.'s ABC News in the last few months, and industry insiders said there are major stumbling blocks to a merger of the two news organizations.

Sources close to the negotiations said a deal is unlikely this year as both sides wrangle over details, quashing speculation that a deal was imminent.

Obstacles to a merger of AOL Time Warner Inc.'s CNN with ABC News go beyond just issues of control to corporate culture and strategy, industry insiders said.

"If you look at (a merger) in the abstract, it has a lot of potential. When you look at the details, it has a lot of problems—that's when it becomes questionable," said Richard Wald, media professor at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism and former ABC and NBC news executive.

The merger would bring together two different cultures, as well as a several egos, that may be hard to navigate under one entity that has to act quickly to respond to the world's news, industry veterans said.

CNN insiders had been abuzz about a deal that would be implemented as early as January, but both networks' officials said a deal was not imminent and said the final result of a deal, if reached, would take years to fully realize.

"We have not sat around the table and hammered out any of these issues in the past couple months," said Walter Isaacson, CNN News Group chair and chief executive, in an interview.

"There has not been any serious meeting . . . This is being reported more breathlessly than it is happening."

Disney President Bob Iger and Jamie Kellner, head of Turner Broadcasting, which oversees CNN, have discussed the issue on and off, Isaacson added.

But company officials have said there are many issues to iron out and they do not want to be rushed into a deal. *Reuters*

Microcredit reaches almost 27M of the world's poorest

NEW YORK—The number of the world's poorest people borrowing from microcredit agencies has swelled from 7.6 million to 26.8 million in four years, the Microcredit Summit Campaign announced Monday.

The annual increase, 37 percent, is one point below the rate required to meet the campaign's goal of providing finance to 100 million of the poorest by 2005.

The campaign was launched in 1997 with the idea that United Nations summits had not paid enough attention to microcredit. Organizers say the message is crucial to meeting the Millennium Summit goal of halving absolute poverty by 2015.

In a report to the Microcredit Plus Five conference, the campaign said the number of clients had risen to 54.9 million at the end of last year, from 30.7 million a year earlier, and from 13.5 million in December 1997.

They now included 26.8 million of the world's poorest, defined as those in the bottom half of people living below their country's poverty line. Each loan is estimated to benefit five people.

The World Bank estimates that 1.2 billion people are living in absolute poverty, on less than one dollar a day.

Poorest clients included 21.2 million women, an increase of seven million on the previous year.

While the number of borrowers increased in most regions, in Africa it fell from 5.2 million to 4.5 million in the year ending December 2001. The number of the poorest among them dropped by 428,000 in the same period.

The number of borrowers in Asia jumped from 23.6 million to 47.9 million and now includes 23.3 million of Asia's poorest.

While the number of borrowers in the Middle East remains relatively low, it more than doubled, from 54,272 at the end of 2000 to 128,158 a year later.

Far more striking, the number of women among the poorest borrowers in that region increased almost eight-fold, to 75,000.

The report showed that people in the industrialized world too were making more use of microfinance. *AFP*

POOR MARKET CONDITIONS

Failures seen in Asia's insurance industry

SINGAPORE—Asia's insurance sector is expected to buckle under the weight of intense competition, result in more failures next year, Standard and Poor's said Tuesday.

"Competition is so hot that in many markets, even if the number of players were to halve, it would remain a significant issue for those left," said Ian Thompson, head of S and P's regional ratings group.

"The sector is challenging, unsettled, and rife with competition. There are no safe havens anywhere in the region," he said in a report received here.

Weak equity markets, lackluster property prices and credit problems are contributing to the sector's troubles, the international ratings agency said.

Poor market conditions have caused a "flight to quality" in some markets.

"Subsequently, at the bottom end of the rating scale, we are seeing a number of players fighting to survive, adding to the competitive dynamic," he said.

But there are some bright spots despite the gloom pervading the sector, S and P said. *AFP*

We'll take foreign cash, China firms say

BEIJING—A new generation of Chinese leaders sweeping into power should speed up the trickle of foreign investment now dribbling into the country's once jealously guarded state sector.

Overseas money—once unwelcome—will prove indispensable as China hunts for capital and superior technology to prop up sagging banks and revamp inefficient state firms, no longer deemed state secrets by economic hardliners.

"In the past this was unimaginable," said Li Yongjun, the president of Jinchuan Group, on the sidelines of the 16th Communist Party Congress.

"Most state firms will diversify their ownership in future.

They'll have foreign investors, private investors, all kinds of structures."

Jinchuan, China's largest nickel producer, was now talking with a potential US investor, he added to drive home his point.

Even before President Jiang Zemin issued an invitation for overseas funds at the opening of the party congress, China had embarked on a series of landmark experiments.

A decade ago, China was fiercely protective of its pillar industries from automobiles to power companies and banks. *Reuters*

Mazda profit up

TOKYO—Mazda Motor Corp. said Tuesday that profits for the first fiscal half quadrupled from a year ago as a weaker yen and popular models boosted overseas revenue.

Japan's No. 5 automaker, which is 33.4 percent owned by Ford Motor Co. of the United States, reported 5.5 billion yen ($46 million) in net income for the six months through September, up sharply from 1.3 billion yen for the same period a year ago.

First half sales climbed 12 percent to 1.16 trillion yen ($9.7 billion) from 1.04 trillion yen a year ago.

"Although we are seeing increased pressure on our net revenue, we are achieving sustainable, profitable growth," Mazda President Lewis Booth said.

Encouraged by the results, Mazda said it was on its way to meet a profit target for the full fiscal year of 26.5 billion yen ($221 million), up from its initial projection of 20 billion yen ($167 million) and a tripling of profits from 8.8 billion yen in fiscal 2001.

Mazda expects 2.34 trillion yen ($20 billion) in sales for the fiscal year ending in March 2003, up 12 percent from a year ago.

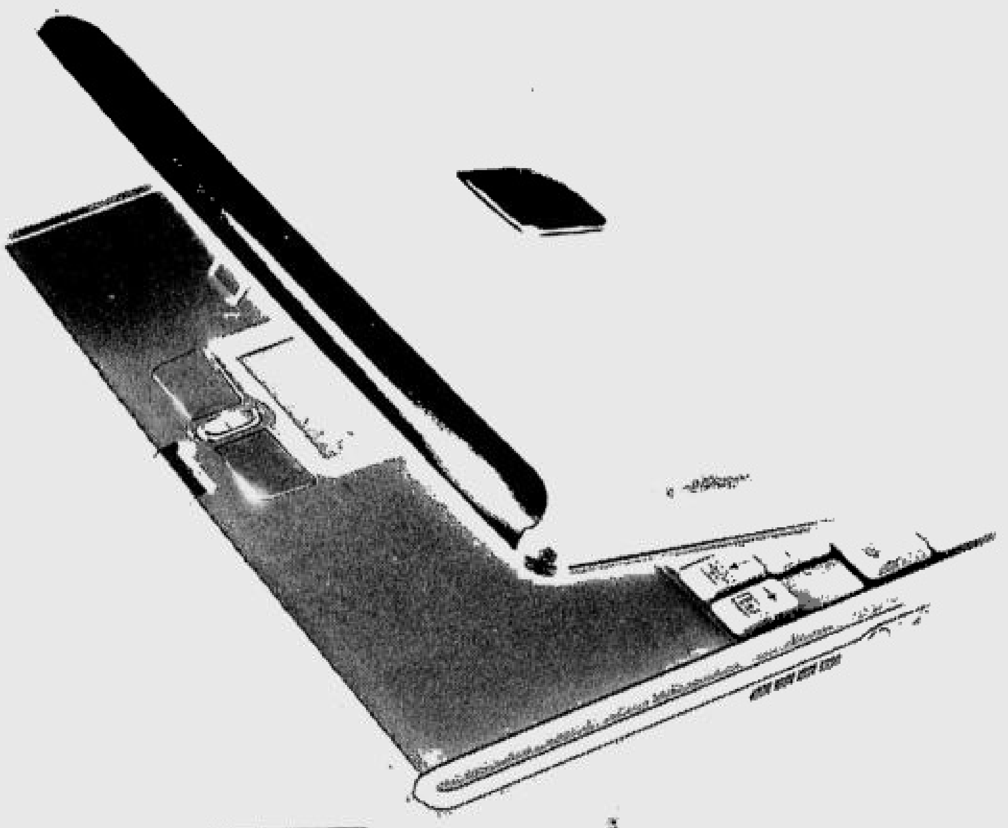
Mazda sold 498,000 vehicles for the first half, up 1.1 percent from 493,000 a year ago. Although Mazda sales in Japan fell 3.3 percent for the first half, that loss was offset by improved sales in Europe, which climbed 22 percent.

For the fiscal year, Mazda hopes to sell 1.015 million vehicles, up 7 percent from 948,000 the previous year.

After a year without new models, Mazda has begun selling the Atenza sedan, called Mazda6 in the United States, and the new Demio subcompact. Both are selling relatively well. The RX-8 sports car is planned for early 2003.

Also Tuesday, Mazda appointed as its new chief financial officer Gideon Wolthers, a former Ford executive with overseas experience in Europe, South Africa and India.

Wolthers replaces Robert Shanks, who leaves at the end of this month to return to Ford in a still-unannounced position, Mazda said. *AP*



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- Security Panel (for security lock & application launch)
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- Approx. 1.34kg

Fujitsu LifeBook Ranks 60% Better Than The Industry Average in Reliability
Source PC Magazine, August 2002

LIFEBOOK

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intel inside pentium III

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry and Investments Building
365 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City, Philippines

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **MACONDRAY PLASTICS, INC.** with principal office address at Km. 13, Panacan, Davao City, for registration with the Board of investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as Executive Order 226, new export producer of plastic foam nets/foam net sheets/foam sheet on a non-pioneer status and with existing plant site at Km. 13, Panacan, Davao City, has been officially accepted on 06 September 2002 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ**
OIC-Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI-November 13, 2002)

HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
MEDICAL CENTER
V Luna Road, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The AFP Medical Center invites bidders to bid for the following:

a. Janitorial Services
b. Laundry Services

Pre-bid conference will be held on 9:00 a.m. 21 November 2002 at the AFPMC CG Conference Room, AFP Medical Center, V Luna Road, Quezon City. Failure to attend the Pre-bid conference on the specified time and date automatically disqualifies any bidder to participate in the bidding.

The estimated budget for the Janitorial Services is P6M while for the Laundry Services is P4.1M.

The AFP Medical Center reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality, and make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ROGELIO I SABLAY
Colonel MAC (GSC)
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Nov. 13 & 18, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that BOI Original Certificate of Registration No. 2002-050 under the name of **E.G. CEBU MANUFACTURING, INC.** was lost.

(PDI-Nov. 13, 2002)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
PASEGURUHAN NG MGA NAGLILINGKOD
SA PAMAHALAAN
(GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon 1101

QUEZON CITY BRANCH BIDDING & AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The **GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM** invites all interested parties to prequalify and submit sealed proposals for the office requirements of the GSIS Quezon City Branch Office, as follows:

ITEMS/DESCRIPTION

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2003
To handle the following.

1. JANITORIAL SERVICES – nine (9) janitors
2. SECURITY – eleven (11) security guards

Inquiries on pre-qualificiation, details of the requirements, terms and conditions, and official Bid Forms may be referred to the Chief, Administrative Division, GSIS Quezon City Branch Office, during office hours at Tel. Nos. 922-61-78 or 924-27-41.

For the purpose, the Bidding Schedule as prescribed:

Pre-qualification : Nov. 22, 2002
Date of Bidding : Dec. 03, 2002
9:00 AM Security Services
2:00 PM Janitorial Services

Sealed bids in triplicate shall be submitted with a refundable cash bid. Manager's/Cashier's of Certified Checks shall be acceptable as cash. Bid shall be in accordance with the new wage orders mandated by law.

The GSIS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect of informality on the bids received, and accept the bid deemed most advantageous to the System, but does not guarantee that any award shall be made. Its decision shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) **DOMINADOR P. EVANGELISTA**
Manager

(PDI – Nov. 12 & 13, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES DILIMAN
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and bid for the

U.P. DILIMAN FACULTY DORMITORY COMPLEX PROJECT

The total project area (property) consists of the following sections: 1) an area measuring approximately 11,700 square meters, bounded by Ma. Guerrero, Agoncillo, and Magsaysay Streets; and 2) an adjacent area measuring 8,300 square meters, bounded by Ma. Guerrero and Agoncillo Streets. Both sections shall be developed by the winning bidder (in a public bidding) under a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Contract, with Section 1 as a Faculty Dormitory for designated members of the University constituency, and Section 2 as an Academic Hangout for student, faculty and other members of the University constituency.

Prequalification forms and terms of Reference may be obtained from the Development and Planning Committee (DPC) Secretariat, Director's Office, Institute for Small-Scale Industries (4/F Virata Hall/ISSI Bldg.), University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 from **November 18** to **22, 2002**. Deadline of submission of duly accomplished prequalification documents will be on **December 2, 2002**. After the evaluation of the documents submitted, the prequalified proponents shall be duly notified of the schedule of subsequent activities. For inquiries, please contact Tel. No. **920-5301** to **99** loc. **4717**; D.L. **920-6923**, **927-9238**; Fax **927-1034** (c/o Ms. Ludy Cubillas); e-mail: lourdes.cubillas@up.edu.ph

(Sgd.) **EMERLINDA R. ROMAN**
Chancellor

(PDI - Nov. 13 & 20, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
'AMANG' RODRIGUEZ MEDICAL CENTER
Marikina City
"PHIC accredited health care provider"

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The 'Amang' Rodriguez Medical Center ('A'RMC) thru the Bids and Awards Committee on Services hereby invites interested bidders to a Public Bidding on Hospital Services for CY 2003.

Particulars	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Submission of Bids	Opening of Bids
Security Services	Nov. 15-29, 2002	Dec. 2, 2002 9:00 AM	Dec. 16, 2002 9:00 AM	Dec. 16, 2002 9:01 AM
Laundry Services	Nov. 15-29, 2002	Dec. 2, 2002 2:00 PM	Dec. 16, 2002 2:00 PM	Dec. 16, 2002 2:01 PM
Janitorial Services	Nov. 15-29, 2002	Dec. 3, 2002 9:00 AM	Dec. 17, 2002 9:00 AM	Dec. 17, 2002 9:01 AM
Health Care Waste Collection Services	Nov. 15-29, 2002	Dec. 3, 2002 2:00 PM	Dec. 17, 2002 2:00 PM	Dec. 17, 2002 2:01 PM
Medical Oxygen/ Gases	Nov. 15-29, 2002	Dec. 4, 2002 2:00 PM	Dec. 18, 2002 2:00 PM	Dec. 18, 2002 2:01 PM

All of the above activities shall be held at the 'A'RMC Conference Room, Second Floor, Administrative Building.

The Complete set of bidding documents can be secured at the BAC Secretariat, Supply Office, 'A'RMC, Marikina City upon presentation of the Authenticated Copies of License to Operate (DTI/ Mayor's Permit), DBM G-EPS Certificate of Registration and payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

THE BAC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS AND/OR PARTS THEREOF WITHOUT OFFERING ANY REASON, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECT CONTAINED THEREIN AND MAY ACCEPT THE BID WHICH IS DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT. THE BAC ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDERS FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT MAY BE INCURRED IN THE PREPARATION OF BIDS NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) **RODOLFO T. SEDANO**
Chairman – BAC (Services)

(PDI - Nov. 13 & 20, 2002)

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Cebu

Q. Where did the name 'Cebu' come from?

A. 'Cebu' is the Hispanized form of the original name 'Sugbo.' Most etymologists say the root word derives from the verb *sugbo*, which means 'to walk in the water.' In early times, the shores of the Cebu port were shallow, so travelers coming from the sea had to wade in the water to reach dry land.

For the Record. Life on Earth began in the oceans nearly 3.5 billion years ago. The first living creatures — a variety of simple animal and plant forms — were able to survive in the ocean for several reasons. Unlike the atmosphere on land, ocean water provided a stable temperature, and the minerals that early life forms needed were present in the water. The ocean also protected living things from dangerous rays of the Sun. That wasn't true on land because at that time the protective ozone layer in the atmosphere hadn't formed yet. It wasn't until about 400 million years that living things, including the very distant ancestors of humans, finally ventured ashore.

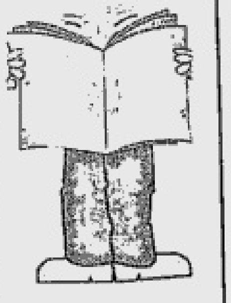
Ooops! Contrary to popular notion, iron is not the most abundant meal on Earth although it may seem to be because of its wide use throughout history. The most abundant is aluminum, comprising about 80% of the Earth's crust.

WORD WATCH

Yero : from the Spanish *hierro*, 'iron.'

PDI – November 13, 2002

Where you find the best.



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OBITUARIES

IN MEMORIAM

LORNA CORAZON SERAFICA

REGISTERED NURSE
DECEMBER 2, 2000

WE CELEBRATE YOUR LIFE...

Your friends and co-workers at Newark Extended Care Facility, Newark, New Jersey. As a nurse, you always tried harder and made a difference, even to the last day.

Your schoolmates at Philippine Union College, Philippine Womens University, Centro Escolar University and Dr. Carlos S. Lanting College, Thank You for the memories.

Your sisters and brothers at Alpha Phi Omega Int'l. Phils. Inc. Service Fraternity and Sorority, who looked up to you as Lady Chancellor.

The Sharing Network Organ and Tissue Donation, Springfield, New Jersey. In your passing, your gift has helped others go on.

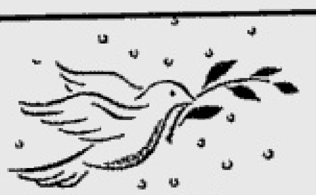
The Lorna C. Serafica Foundation who carries on your legacy.

Your parents, your sister and brother, your son, your brother and sister-in-law, and relatives. We love you and miss you so much.

We remember how beautiful you were, your smile, your style, and how you touched us all in a very special way.

Announcement:

Lorna's ashes will be entered at Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Baesa, Kalookan City on Thursday, November 14, 2002 at 4:00 p.m.



So Lovingly Remembered
So Sadly Missed

Our Beloved

Gaudencio Embuscado Antonino

On the day of the thirty fifth Anniversary
Of his Birth to Eternal Life
November 13, 1967

HIS WIFE, MAGNOLIA TOGETHER WITH THEIR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT GRANDCHILDREN REQUEST RELATIVES, FRIENDS AND PIOUS READERS TO PRAY FOR THE ETERNAL REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

Masses at: MT. CARMEL SHRINE - 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
SAN AGUSTIN PARISH
Jaen, Nueva Ecija - 6:30 a.m.
ST. BENEDICT, Alabang - 6:10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
ST. JAMES, Alabang - 6:20 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

CONRADA CRUZ SIOSON

Died on November 7, 2002

Her body lies in state at the family residence at No. 344 M. Sioson St., Dumpalit, Malabon City.

Interment will be on November 14, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. at Eternal Garden, Caloocan City.

(Serviced by Marcelo Funeral Homes)

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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John 14:6

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National Funeral Directors Association

In Loving Memory

on the **Second Death Anniversary** of

FLORENCIO M. LEPORGO, SR.

who passed away on November 13, 2000

The Family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Masses offered at:

1. San Vicente Ferrer Parish, *Surigao City*	5:15 AM
2. Mary Help of Christian Parish, *Calamba City*	6:00 PM
3. St. Isidore Parish of Medina, *Misamis Oriental*	5:00 PM
4. San Antonio de Padua Parish, *Los Baños, Laguna*	6:00 PM
5. San Isidro Parish, *Pasay City*	6:00 AM

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
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CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
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Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191

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With deep sorrow,

Roche

Roche (Philippines) Inc.

announces the untimely death of

ARNULFO JOSE M. ANGELES

Sales Manager of our Consumer Health Division

Who joined our Creator on Monday, 11 November 2002. His body lies in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, San Antonio Valley I, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, 16 November 2002 at 10:00 AM at the Everest Hills Memorial Park, Susana Heights, Muntinlupa City.

We grieve with his family and loved ones and request our business associates, friends and the pious readers to please pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

On the occasion of the 2nd Death Anniversary of

Don FEDERICO "PAPA" C. SUNTAY

Please accept our deepest gratitude for all of you who were with us and offered prayers and condolences during our time of loss. We ask those of you whose lives he touched with his generosity and undiscriminating charity, for your continued prayers.

Papa, we know that you always care. We know that your constant prayers have helped us overcome great difficulties. Please continue praying for us and for the success of the projects and programs that you and Mama have inspired, launched, or envisioned. We love you, PAPA, and we will keep on loving you and praying for you.

The Family of the late
Dr. FEDERICO C. SUNTAY
of Hagonoy, Bulacan; Cavite; Mindoro and Baguio City

Only surviving children: **Nenita** and **Emil**; grandchildren: **Ian**, **Brian**, **Ana**, **Rica**, son-in-law **Jesus**, and all members of his staff and employees.

email: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

PEOPLE at WORK

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ● Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

BREAKFAST CHAT

How to bounce back after being laid off

By Ricky B. Garcia

LAYOFFS. Reduction in workforce. Downsizing. Corporate restructuring. Whatever they call it, it simply means you're out of a job.

Being fired is one of the most traumatic events you can go through. But by understanding and working through your emotions, taking care of yourself and setting your sights on new career goals, you can survive this trauma.

At the recent People at Work segment in Studio 23's Breakfast, program host Ria Tanjuatco and McGraw Hill marketing executive Jenny Javier, interviewed Vicente Kilayko on this topic.

Kilayko is the director of Drake Beam Morin, Phil. Inc. or DBM, a global outplacement firm operating in the Philippines. DBM started the concept of outplacement in 1967 when two psychologists, John Drake and Jerry Beam, formed the company. Outplacement is the process of helping employees who have been terminated find their next career on behalf of the company making the change. Here's the gist of the interview:

PaW: After a heartbreaking layoff, it can be tough to pick yourself up and put together your life again. Even tougher is the process of looking into your soul and approaching your next career move in a positive way. During the first 24 hours after being laid-off, which is the critical period, what can a person do to stave off depression?

Vicente: Losing a job causes strong feelings. DBM suggests that you do not do anything within the first three days after being laid off. What you need to do is to take stock of yourself both emotionally and financially. Emotionally, you need to deal with feelings such as anger, shock and denial. What is important is for you to accept that a change has occurred in your life and that you need to move on. Financially, DBM suggests that you should already expect not to have any income for as long as six months during your period of job search. If you find a job earlier than six months, look at it as a bonus. However, if you have difficulty stretching your funds, change your lifestyle and avoid unnecessary expenses. Take stock of your situation and implement steps to control your life.

PaW: What is the best thing to do if you have been unfairly terminated due to discrimination on age, religion, race or gender?

Vicente: Based on our DBM experience, we find that companies are generally very careful, both legally and financially, before they implement any change such as laying off employees. The problem often lies in "how" and not in "why" it is being done. Sometimes, something is said or done that affects the self-esteem of the individual concerned. DBM helps companies in the proper implementation of a restructuring. However, if the individual really feels that he/she is a victim of unfair termination, then he/she should seek legal advice.

PaW: What are the steps that you can take to preserve your self-esteem after a lay-off?

Vicente: As I had mentioned earlier, it is important that you deal with your emotions after a lay-off. The danger becomes apparent when you start looking for a job and you have not reconciled your feelings with your previous employer. During your job interview, you may inadvertently say things about your previous company or boss that will negatively affect their decision to hire you. The success of a job search is based on how you regain your self-esteem. This is important.

Let me also share with you the things we do at DBM. For example, we provide office space (complete with telephones, computers, Internet access and secretarial support) for those in our individual program to be able to help them maintain a structure in their daily routine. We also create a sense of identity by providing calling cards with the DBM office as the contact address to executives that are in our program. These may be little things, but they make a big difference to an individual who is out of a job.

PaW: Are there any helpful links like counseling organizations and government agencies?

Vicente: We are aware of some individuals who do counseling for those who are terminated. For those who want to go into self-employment, TLRC would be a good resource center. As an outplacement company, DBM provides a range of services such as counseling, self-assessment, job search resources, networking and advise on self-employment. For the moment, DBM is the only global outplacement company in the Philippines.

PaW: What steps can you take to increase your chances of finding a good job after a lay-off?

Vicente: The key to finding a good job after a lay-off is preparation. Know clearly what you want to do next and what you want to avoid. In the outplacement process, we assist the individual do a self-assessment to give him the opportunity to look at himself and discuss the results with a consultant. These discussions result in a definition of your Ideal Job Preferences (IJP) or the next steps in your life. Based on the IJPs, you prepare a plan focusing on those companies or positions that best suit your preferences. Make it happen by implementing your plans. This requires discipline and hard work.

Remember, the first offer that comes along may not always be your ideal job. Think about it carefully and be prepared to wait. If you don't, you may find yourself facing the same difficulty with your next job and being laid-off again.

PaW: If a great job doesn't come your way quickly, how can you take advantage of the time off to make yourself more marketable?

Vicente: We need to constantly upgrade our skills and competencies. The period that you do not have a job is a good opportunity to learn skills in computers or languages. Make productive use of your time. I would also like to emphasize that you should not wait for opportunities like being out of a job to learn new skills. I would like to urge everyone, including those that are secure in their current employment, to continue to upgrade themselves. It is a very competitive world out there and you need to keep up. I also would like to highlight language skills. In our global world, it helps to learn at least one Asian, preferably Mandarin, and one European, perhaps Spanish, languages.

PaW: What is your advice on how to find a job after losing one?

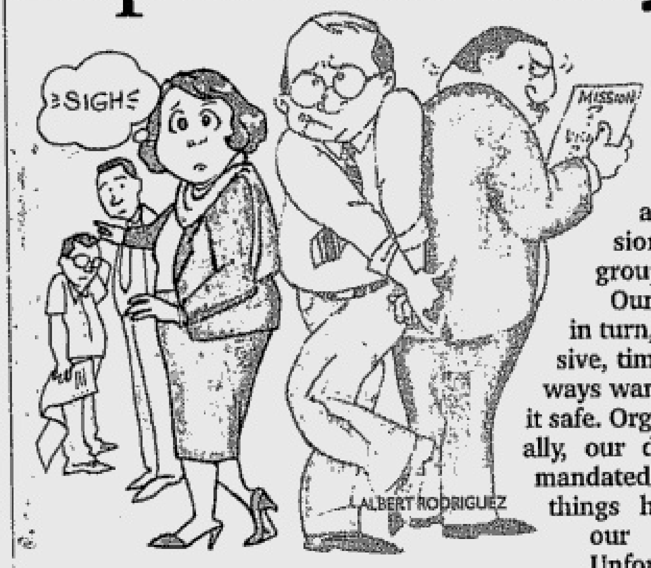
Vicente: At DBM, we talk about five ways of finding a job; direct mail, classified ads, search firms, the Internet and networking. By far, the most powerful is networking, with 50 percent to 70 percent of those who found their next job utilizing this approach. Networking enables you to access the hidden job market, those that are not advertised. Keep in mind that the secret to finding a good job is hard work and a belief that the best is yet to come.

(Email feedback to drgarci88@yahoo.com*)*

RIA Tanjuatco, Vicente Kilayko and Jenny Javier

RICKY GARCIA

Supervisor may join grouchy rank and file employees



By Tita Datu Puangco

I HAVE been working in one of the top 100 corporations for over 10 years as section supervisor. I love my work yet I am getting increasingly frustrated with the way things are going in the company since a new management team took over. Our manager reports directly to a vice president who does not seem to trust anyone and who does not have a clear vision and mission for his group.

Our manager, in turn, is indecisive, timid and always wants to play it safe. Organizationally, our division is mandated to make things happen in our company. Unfortunately, because of these two bosses' attitudes, our division has steadily lost its clout and credibility. This has been a source of constant frustration for me, as well as my other co-supervisors. Our subordinates also feel this, resulting to low morale and lack of motivation to perform well.

As section supervisor, I continue to find ways to stem the tide of sagging employee morale and performance. I know I can only do so much, and probably weeks or months from now, I myself will join them in echoing their litany of woes against our "leaders." What should I do to prevent this?

Frustrated Supervisor

Advice

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

You have cause to be concerned if your division is now like driftwood waiting for the organizational tide to bring it to whatever direction. Employees usually recognize this type of situation and sooner or later, they will start to "de-commit" and the organization will deteriorate.

What can you do to influence your bosses? Or to work within your mandate as a supervisor to help the division find grounding? As you know, change is the only constant these days. But in moments of change, even bosses can be helpless. And a new boss may be looking for allies who can help him think and execute ideas.

Be careful not to prejudge your bosses even though there is evidence of their shortcomings. Be an optimist and believe that a change in the situation in fact can happen and that sooner or later, your division will regain its strength and influence.

"Domainal" mapping

Let me share with you a technique I teach in my managing change workshops that can help in your situation. This technique is called "domainal" mapping and involves planning around the change you want to push.

For example, you want your division to engage in a vision-mission workshop that will provide it direction. Define the particular person or groups of people you have to influence to make this happen. For each person that you have identified, analyze what the person is probably thinking and feeling now about a mission-vision development workshop.

It is important to view the situation from both the thinking and feeling levels. Then ask yourself: how do I want this person to think or feel about vision and mission development? What is the ideal situation? What will happen if I don't do anything? Then, brainstorm what steps you can take to close the gap between how the person is presently thinking and feeling and the ideal situation.

Ask the same set of questions for all the critical people or groups you have to influence. Once you have completed your "domainal" map, show it to one of the supervisors also eager for change to happen. Or better still, involve him in making the map. In this way, he gets committed to taking action. Once you have done your map, your will see more specific and doable actions. Set a timetable and get to action.

Reviving morale

Then, attend to how you can revive the flagging morale of the employees under you. While awaiting initiatives from the top, why not keep them busy? Your group can do "team teaching and studying" or do research on the Internet in your area of specialization. You can come across great ideas that all of you can use to improve your section. During moments of change, it is better to keep employees focused on development activities and on their job objectives. Objectives can serve as a source of security that can anchor them as everything changes around them.

Finally, prepare your employees so they acquire a mindset that welcomes rather than resists change. Many times, we do not understand why our comfortable situation has to change. But faith allows us to remain positive, optimistic and responsible. We also know that the other word for change is innovation and progress. Wishing you only the best and good luck.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

How do you make your email safe?

DEAR WW: I recently read that even after you hit the delete key, your company can access your email. Is that really true?

They've Got (My) Mail

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

Scott Smith taught me a huge lesson about email. Scott isn't an author or consultant. He's facing a prison sentence for stealing 800 copies of the Oakdale Leader, his hometown newspaper. No, he wasn't a vociferous reader or running a recycling business. Scott had been arrested on drug charges and, according to the police, was trying to destroy the newspapers so his parents wouldn't read all about it.

Scott learned the hard way that news is hard to control. And email is no different. Unfortunately, the things that make it so powerful-the fact that it's very easy and very fast-can also be its undoing. Or more accurately, YOUR undoing. Like any power tool, email needs to be handled very carefully.

Here are some basic safety tips. For more, check out "Writing Effective E-Mail" by Nancy and Tom Flynn (Crisp Publications).

1. Are you careful when you hit "send?" Someone recently wrote to Working Wounded saying he'd finally gotten the courage to send a love note to his sweetie. Unfortunately, he hit the wrong button and his love letter went to all 3,241 people at his company. She dumped him and his boss gave him a lecture about misuse of company equipment.

2. Do you hit the "pause" button before you send an angry email? Have you ever written an angry letter late at night only to wonder the next morning what came over you? Well, there are no "take-backs" with email. So it's best to sleep on strongly worded messages before you send them on their way.

3. How would you feel if others saw what you wrote? Beware the "forward" button! Once you send an email, it can be forwarded to anyone. So play it safe. Write your messages assuming that the people you LEAST want to read them will. Anything else is foolish.

4. Do you open emails only from people you know? I'm a big believer in the preview pane, which allows you to view emails without opening them. If your current email program doesn't have a preview option, shop around for one that does. It's a simple and great protection against a virus.

5. Do you use your company's computer for work-related emails only? Your letter was correct: most company computer systems can retrieve all emails, even those that have been deleted. So if you're hot to send personal messages, get your own email account and send them from home. Short on bucks? Many public libraries offer free email accounts and access to the Internet. They're your best bet if you want your personal life to remain personal.

You heard, of course, about the recent "Melissa" virus that infected corporate email systems. It was highly appropriate that the virus was named after a stripper-because email handled improperly can undress you, too.

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com poll: Which best describes your feelings about E-mail?

--E-xcluded, 13.5%
--E-ntombed, 20.8%
--E-cstatic, 65.6%

Our winning strategy for dealing with email comes from Jon M. in cyberspace. "For those really important memos (announcement of a major resignation or new hire, reorganization of a division), I do NOT compose in the e-mail message box. It's too easy to accidentally hit the send button in mid-message or before you have thought through all the key points. Therefore, I do all my composition of important memos (but not this one!) with a word processor. I do exactly what I would do with a standard paper document: I compose carefully, spell check, print out a hard copy, circulate to a few key staff to get comments, sleep on it a day. After I am comfortable that it's right, THEN I paste it into the message field and send it on."

JED ESTRADA

(Send feedback to bob@workingwounded.com*)*

OFF TO THE COUNTRYSIDE!

People at Work Live! Seminar Series goes to the countryside for the first time on Nov. 23, 2002 when it conducts three popular seminars in the Performing Arts Theater of the University of Perpetual Help System Laguna in Biñan, Laguna. The seminars will be on "Achieving your personal vision in troubled times" to be conducted by Tita Datu Puangco, "Developing a power image for leadership" to be discussed by Mariecor Salas Ding and "Negotiating your way to success" to be tackled by Ernie Cecilia.

Also a first is the People at Work Live! Job Fair which will be conducted simultaneously with the seminars.

Shown in photo are representatives of the sponsors and organizers for the Ledearship Development Series for Laguna and the Management Skills Series for Metro Manila: Land Bank of the Philippines, Mt. Carmel Printing Press, University of Perpetual Help System Laguna, Designer Blooms, INQ7 Interactive, Inc., Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, MSD Personnel Development Consultants, Adobo Interactive, PICPA-Laguna (co-organizer for the Laguna event), Optimus Managers & Advisors, Inc. (seminar organizer for People at Work Live!), and Inquirer's Job Market.

Joining the sponsors and organizers are (sixth from left) Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and (extreme right) Inquirer SVP for Sales and Marketing Rene Reinoso.

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

PERSONALITY guru and beauty queen trainor Mariecor Salas Ding joins the roster of People at Work Live! Seminar Series resource persons on Nov. 23, 2002 when she will give a talk on "Developing a power image for leadership."

Ms Ding is president and managing director of MSD Personnel Development Consultants. She is a graduate of Le Chatelaine Finishing School in Lausanne, Switzerland and earned her masteral degree in Linguistics from the University of California, Berkeley, USA. She also has a Certificate in International Executive Training from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA.

In photo are Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez (right) and Ms. Ding (left).

DEAN Susana Mendiola (right), Dean of the College of Business of the University of Perpetual Help System Laguna, confers with Jet Abugan, Optimus Managers & Advisors, Inc. account manager.

DR. Karen Tamayo, chancellor of the University of Perpetual Help System Laguna, commits support of the university for the success of the Leadership Development Services of People at Work Live! to Inquirer SVP for Sales and Marketing Rene Reinoso.

'Never quit," says teacher turned award winning underwriter

BERNARDO

LOURDES Bernardo has a BS Education degree tucked under her belt. But she's now in a world completely off tangent from her nine-year teaching career. Today, she's a life insurance underwriter by profession, and proud of it.

She's still Ma'am Ludy though. From her humble beginnings as a part-time life insurance agent, she became a multi-awarded agent and is now one of the most promising new unit managers of Philamlife.

Bernardo vividly recalls how she got into the life insurance industry. A unit manager from Philamlife egged her to attend their seminar thrice, and thrice she declined. The fourth time, she gave in because the agent was persistent.

She tagged along her husband to the seminar as well. On the last day of the three-night seminar, the lady approached her and said, "I don't know if you're coming back but what is important is you attended the seminar. But I'd like you to be an achiever in your own right. *Ayoko yung pag may nagtanong sa akin kung kilala kita, ang masasabi ko lang, 'Ah, si* Bernardo, *nag*-attend *ng* seminar *pero walang nangyari*.'" It struck her and she promised herself that something big would happen to her in the future.

First years

At first, it was her husband who pursued a full-time career as a life insurance agent. They decided that only one of them would apply for a license for business reasons.

When Mr. Bernardo was promoted to unit manager, it automatically meant Bernardo could now apply for her underwriting license. But she stayed on with her teaching job.

Mr. Bernardo would often kid her about how much she's getting from teaching, and he'll just give her the salary she was receiving. She was being challenged again, this time by her husband. "*Nagpaalam ako sa mga madre* that I'll be on sick leave for three months. It was just timely that I got pregnant with my fifth child during the months that I was on vacation. I talked to the nuns and informed them that I will not come back anymore. *Nakakahiya naman kasi na kapapasok ko lang ulit, magma-maternity leave na naman ako. Maiistorbo ko na naman sila.*" She decided to sell life insurance. Her first clients were tha parents of the kids she would tutor after school.

With limited connections to boot, this Sorsogon native's only capital was courage paired with the determination to sell. She went to companies to offer life insurance through salary deductions. "*Nung araw, takot akong humarap sa mga* executives *but, little by little, natutunan ko rin. Lakas lang talaga ng loob.*" It also helped that she was a former teacher. "*Hindi dapat* forced selling. *Yung pagbebenta* must always come from the heart *at kailangang* may passion ka in what you're doing."

Turning point

Bernardo added, "In my first years as an agent, I was only working because of the lucrative commission. But when I experienced my first claim, *nag-iba yung pananaw ko sa trabahong ito. Yung iba, abuloy lang ang dala para sa naiwanang pamilya. Ako, tseke. Parang* hero *ako. Yung ang* turning point *at nagpaka-seryoso na ako sa pag-aahente*. I felt na everybody must have a life insurance. *Kung hindi man sila bumili ng* life insurance *sa akin*, at least, I opened to them the prospects of being insured. Only then can I say that I've done my job of opening their minds to life insurance."

From a mere spectator during Philamlife's awarding ceremonies, Bernardo aimed for the prizes other agents were getting because of their hard work. "*Nung naisip ko yung* perks of being an awardee, *nag-set ako ng* goal *na ako naman sa susunod ang bibigyan ng* award. Most of the rewards are out-of-the-country trips *kaya siyempre, tatrabahuhin mo talaga*."

Million dollar sales

At present, she's in her fourth year as member of the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT), the most prestigious association of life insurance professionals worldwide. Bernardo is also a consistent recipient of the Chairman's Board award, an exclusive honor club that counts among its members the top 15 percent of Philamlife's outstanding career agents. She's also a bona fide member of the Premier Agents Club, an elite club whose members showed exceptional first-year production and professional agency values.

The Bernardo couple is proud to have succeeded in their chosen field especially now that Mr. Bernardo is a newly appointed agency manager of the company. Their children are enrolled in private schools and they live comfortably. They can afford to go on vacations abroad. Bernardo admits had she not ventured into the life insurance industry, she would not afford to give her children the luxuries they are now enjoying. She adds, "*Dati*, when my son asked for new rubber shoes, *sasabihin ko, 'Anak, sa* bonus *ko na lang.' Ngayon, pag may sinabi silang kailangan nila*, okay *agad*."

Closer family ties

The family also became closer since the couple has more time for the kids now unlike before when Bernardo was tied to her teaching and tutorials. She still sells life insurance as a commitment to make a difference in the lives of people although her main responsibility now is to guide new agents. Her main goal now is to put in more work and earn another award, to be one of the best unit managers of Philamlife.

Bernardo has this advice to starting life insurance agents. "Never quit. I always tell them that selling life insurance is not an easy job. But also remember that in your job, if there are no obstacles on the road, you will get nowhere. *Kailangang maramdaman mo ang* challenges and believe that you can do it."

She also adds, "The job is very noble, humanitarian. I always tell my client that if they live too long, they will always remember and thank me for what I've sold them."

Indeed, this is one of the many legacies that Bernardo will imprint in every client's heart.

Talk to yourself to be more productive

IN A study on messaging practices in the workplace, Pitney Bowes found that the most effective and productive workers used messaging tools-the telephone, e-mail, voicemail, postal mail, interoffice mail, fax and sticky notes-to keep themselves organized. Here are some of the ways star workers used those tools:

* They talk to themselves. Actually, they left messages for themselves on voicemail or e-mail to stay up on their workloads. Star employees also often took notes on work as they commuted to and from their jobs.

* They come to work prepared. Productive workers plan their next business days even before they go home for the day. They prepare materials, anticipate questions, map out their approach to that day's work and try to determine how much time each activity will take.

* They file their knowledge. Star workers hold on to pieces of knowledge for future reference. This "knowledge indexing" -organizing projects into specific e-mail folders or tagging files by color-helps them stay on top of multiple projects and tasks.

* They use reminders. In addition to voice mails and e-mails, employees use reminders like beeps or alarms in their computer programs to help them remember when different projects need immediate attention.

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REFLECTIONS FOR SUNDAY PAW

TERESA Reyes Tunay, editor-in-chief of Blue Collar magazine, and Bishop Precioso Cantillas, director of TESDA and Bishop of the Diocese of Maasin, Leyte, will join Sunday People at Work starting Nov. 24 to write the Reflections for the Working Soul.

Readers of the Metro Manila edition of the Job Market will be treated to straight-from-the-gut insights on the Sunday Gospel as applied to work life and the workplace. Ms. Tunay will give the layman's perspectibe while Bishop Cantillas will give the religious' perspective.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

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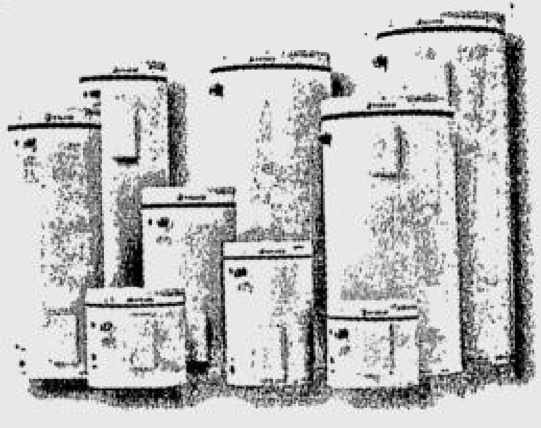

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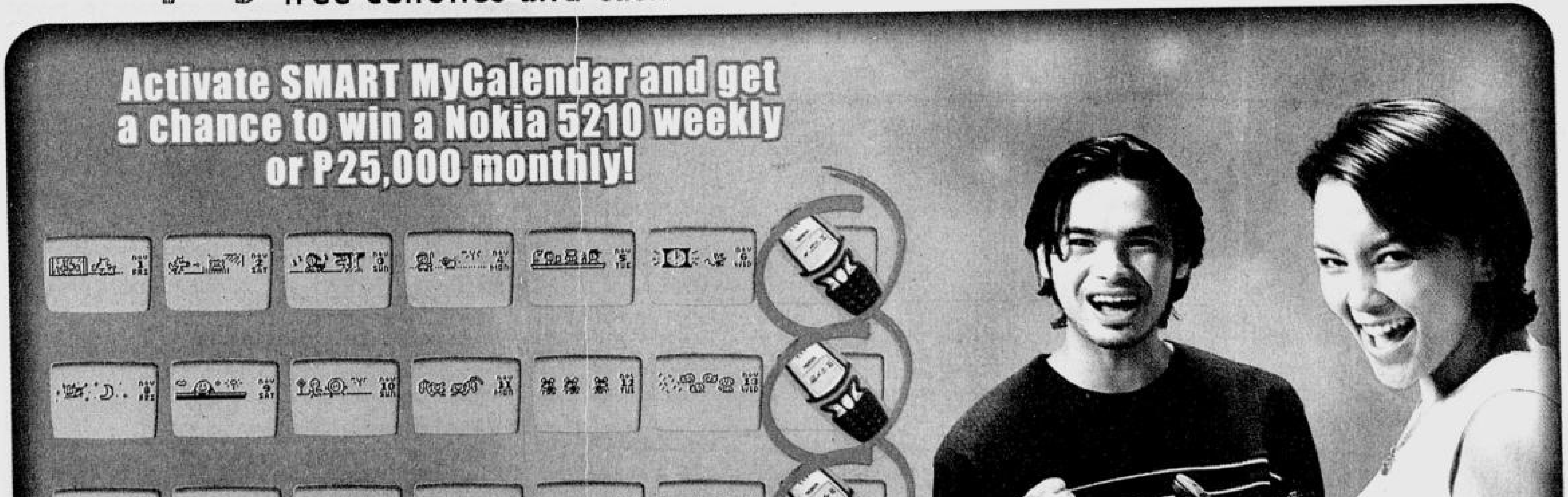
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To activate MyCalendar*:	Key in CAL ON
To get help:	Key in HELP
To turn off daily updates:	Key in RAFFLECAL OFF

Send all keywords to 239.

Subscribers will receive a daily update of accumulated raffle entries via text.

Available through SMART Gold & SMART Buddy. This service is supported only by NOKIA 3210, 3310, 3330, 3315, 6150, 6210, 6250, 6310, 6510, 7110, 7650, 8210, 8250, 8310, 8850, and 8890 handsets. Rates: P2.50 per transaction sent to 239 / P2.50 per calendar logo sent daily to the user.

*You can activate MyCalendar on any day of the month.

Promo valid nationwide. Promo Duration: November 1, 2002 to January 26, 2003.

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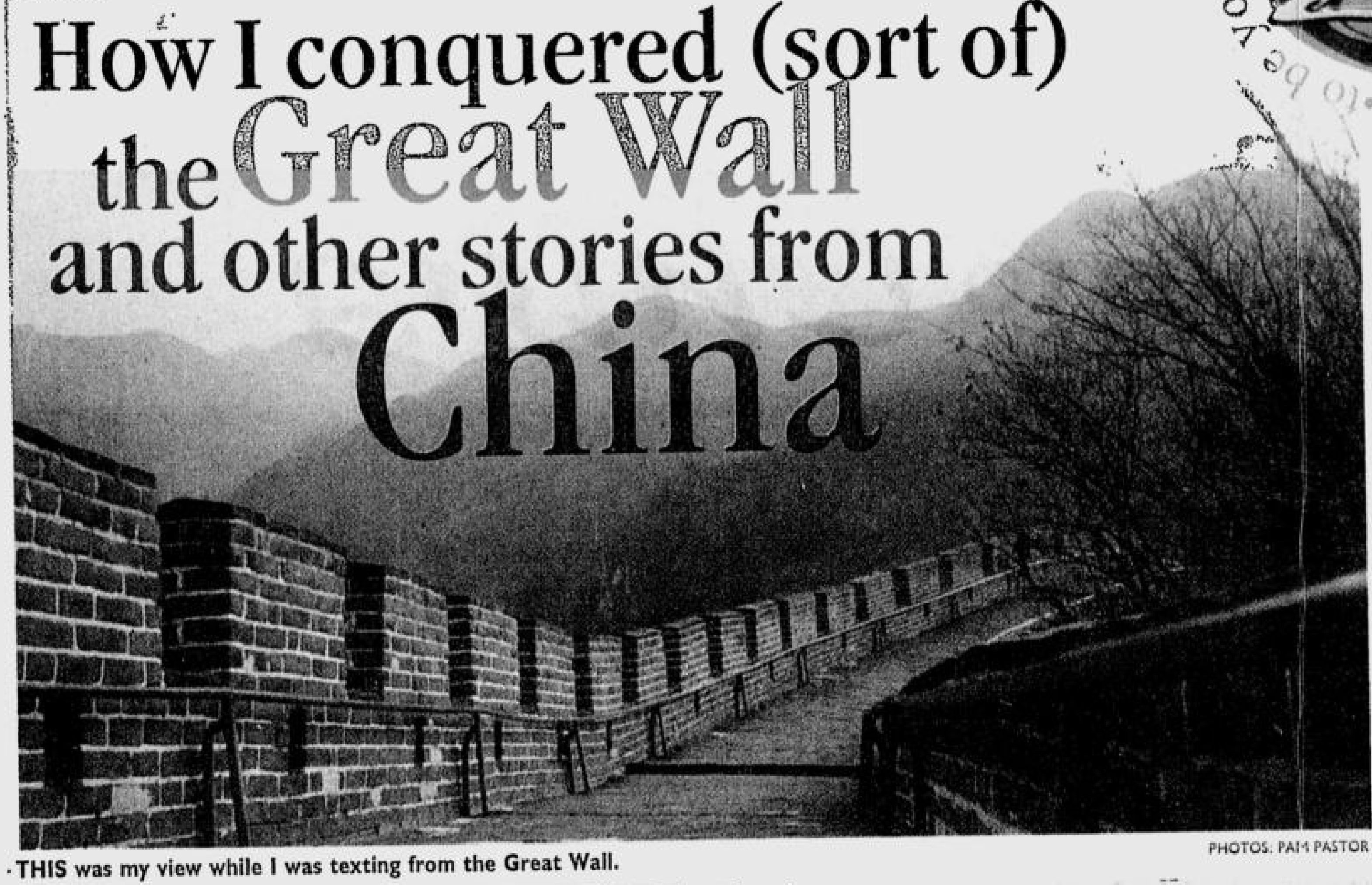
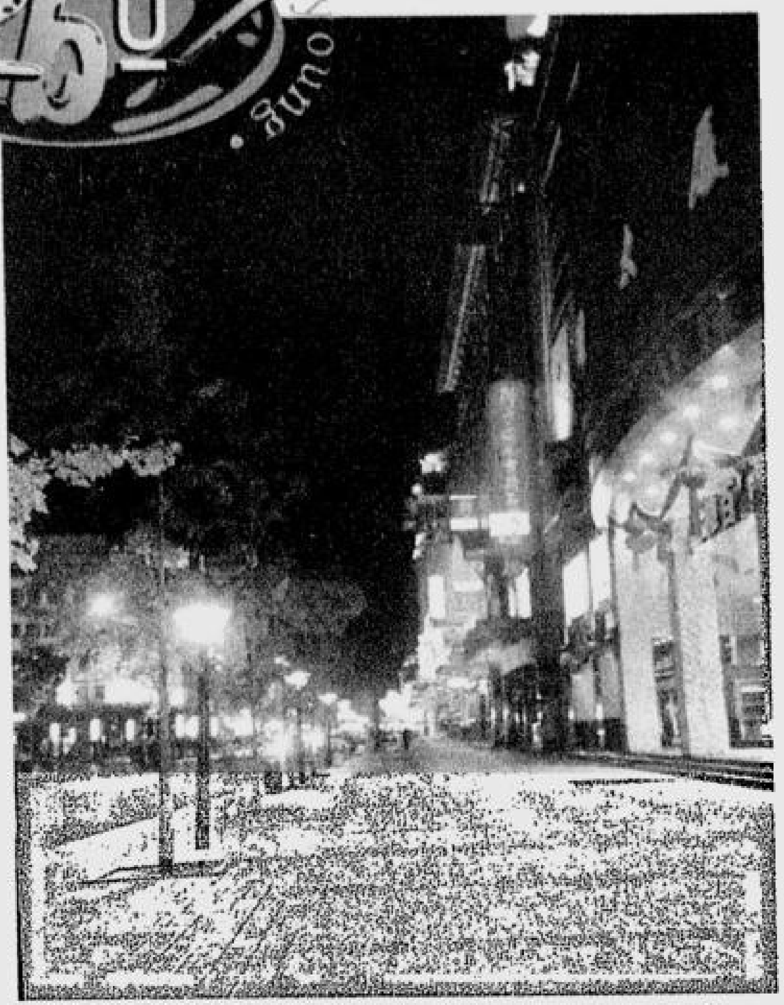
How I conquered (sort of) the Great Wall and other stories from China



THIS was my view while I was texting from the Great Wall.

PHOTOS: PAM PASTOR



CLOSED. Wangfujing Street is virtually a ghost town after 9 p.m.

By Pam Pastor

"MAYONNAISE, please," I said loudly, stretching my lips to emphasize every syllable, in hopes that the waiter would understand. Just seconds ago, the same waiter had brought a plateful of fries to our table along with a bottle of catsup. It was Tuesday night and I was in Lily Bar, one of the establishments that lined Beijing's Sanlitun Street.

MAO Tse-Tung at the entrance of the Forbidden City

Sanlitun Bar Street was surprisingly busy for a weekday. Barkers wearing identical uniforms hollered, followed, grabbed and scaled the borders of harassment in an attempt to lure you into their bars. I was with a group of Filipinos (quite an interesting mix—Business World's private banking reporter Beth Sanchez, DCODE's editor at-large and marketing manager TJ Manotoc, the Philippine Star's Telecoms editor Tony Paño, Manila Bulletin's business editor Lorie Cabañes and our guide and mom of sorts, Menchu Duay of Nokia Philippines). It was only our second day in Beijing. We walked the entire length of bars thrice, trying to decide on one place. It wasn't exactly easy—we didn't have a lot of choice. Most bars had bands singing Chinese songs on stage, only one was singing something remotely familiar. When I say familiar, I mean Aqua, which translates to "no way." Another bar had a catwalk right in the middle. Models kept walking out in elaborate outfits while the patrons just worked at getting sloshed. Not really my kind of evening. We peeked through the window of a bar just a few steps down and saw an Indian belly dancer gyrating. Hmm. And that's how we ended up at Lily Bar.

The language barrier and quirky guides with incomprehensible English may dampen the excitement of the junketeer

(STANDING, from left) Tony Paño, Menchu Duay, Lorie Cabañes; (seated) TJ Manotoc, the author and Beth Sanchez

Of course, just minutes after our entrance, Miss Belly Dancer disappeared and was replaced by a couple of girls with tambourines and a guy on keyboards, and they started singing mostly Chinese songs. I decided to focus on the food, and that was when the trouble began.

Language barrier

"Mayonnaise?" I said again. Menchu tried helping by pretending to dip a fry into something invisible. The waiter nodded, disappeared, and reappeared with an empty sauce bowl.

"No," we shook our heads. I grabbed the catsup bottle and pointed, "Like this, but white." Waiter called another guy. Guy seemed to understand. He returned with something white indeed—salt.

While the others started using the salt, I refused to give up. After searching for a pen, I grabbed a napkin and wrote "mayonnaise" in big bold letters. I waved one of the waiters over and showed him the napkin. He came back and handed a whole sheaf of napkins to me.

By this time, it was no longer about dips and condiments. I wanted to be understood. Another waiter came over and I pointed to the letters on the napkin. He thought I wanted to request a song. Drat.

I was about ready to give up when a small bowl of mayo finally found its way to our table. I thought I had won. But no, it came with the fish fingers that someone had ordered.

I guess I was asking for too much. After all, in their menu, French fries were "frensh fries," vegetables "vefe tables" and served, "serled."

As for actually requesting songs, one might have to think twice about that. In Lily Bar at least, one song would set you back 100 yuan (around P650). Tony grabbed back his napkin from the waiter and Menchu offered to sing the song for him for the same amount.

The Wall

My future children will have something to be proud of. I can tell them their mommy conquered the Great Wall of China.

Okay, not quite.

By the time we finished buying gloves and hats from the stores lining the entrance to The Wall to keep us warm during the climb, the rest of the journalists from all over Asia Pacific and their guides had disappeared, and were on their way up to one of the Wall's peaks. Left with no choice, we decided to go for the steeper but shorter side.

I'm no mountain/cliff/wall-climber, so my standards mean nothing, but it was steep. So steep I wasn't really climbing up—I was crawling up. After just a few minutes, I realized I wasn't going to reach any peak.

While the others went on, I dropped to the ground and kept one hand on the railing to stop me from rolling down.

After taking tons of photographs, I sat on the Great Wall of China and started texting my boyfriend. That was technology and history coming together, and I was right in the middle of it. It was surreal, exhilarating; nothing short of amazing.

So I didn't really conquer The Wall, didn't even come home with a certificate. But my kids can say, "Hey, my mom texted from the Great Wall," and that's not shabby at all.

I know someone whose kid can say, "Hey, my dad wrote his name on the Great Wall," but that's his story.

Worst tour guide

Our tour guide was a loud, fleshy woman with crazy hair. She was okay except for one thing. We could not understand a single word she said.

"Oh-keh, bleeng dan yol medicines," she said as we climbed off the bus to see Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City.

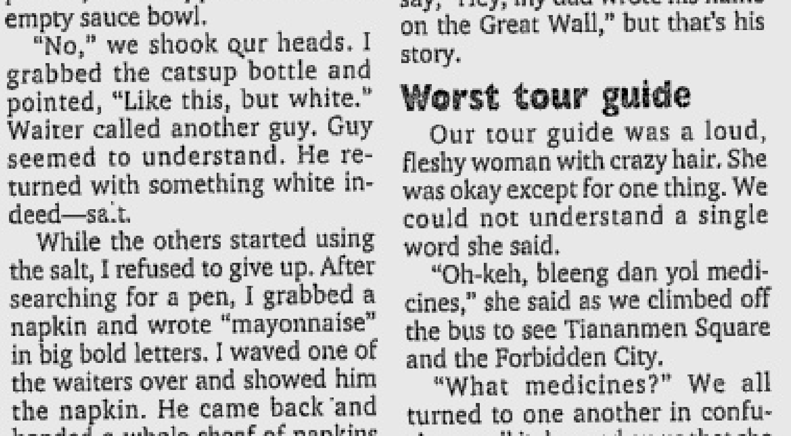
"What medicines?" We all turned to one another in confusion, until it dawned on us that she might have meant, "needy things," whatever that is.

The tour guide was to carry a green flag with her to help us spot her easily so we wouldn't get lost. That was all I needed to know. After a few sentences, I decided to tune out. TJ said, "I learned these things in high school." And while I might not have listened to my history teachers either, I told myself I'd rather reread my high school books than bend over backward trying to comprehend what she was saying.

I was freezing, my lips were chapped, nose dripping mucus, and I was on the verge of getting a fever because of the weather. I didn't want to add mind-numbing headache to the list of things plaguing me.

Apparently, I wasn't the only one who felt that way. Even the journalists from the other countries inched away every time she

HOW/ p.C3



WHEN the Red Guards go marching in...

Exposure to bare skin can be fatal.

Mushrooms are terribly sensitive. He explained. Towards light. Temperature. Skin. We take great care to preserve their appearance. Heaven forbid if a worker turns up without gloves. Dave is very touchy (pardon the pun) about these things.

That night, I stared at my mushroom soup. It was the same wholesome goodness enjoyed everywhere since the Campbell's folks discovered mushrooms. Still, I had a nagging thought and phoned Dave.

Call it the supermodel syndrome, but our mushrooms simply don't like the sun. Instead, they prefer the underside of a rotting tree trunk. Or a standard issue 4 x 6 wooden bed.

At least that's where Dave Tadge grows them. Row after row of round, firm, juicy button mushrooms. He looked for a prime specimen and rubbed it against his forearm. I thought a genie would appear. Rather disappointingly, its smooth surface (the mushroom's, not Dave's) developed a curious wrinkly texture.

What happened to the poor mushroom, the one that touched your skin? I enquired. Oh, we had to let it go, He replied. A small sacrifice. Hmmm ... That gives me an idea for an ad. At least it didn't perish in vain.

Survival tips

NEXT time you're in Beijing, remember:

1. Sign language is essential. Because when you are communicating with someone who can't speak your language, you have to let your hands do the talking.

2. Six degrees is cold. So bring thermal underwear, gloves and all the coats and jackets you can fit into your suitcase.

3. Windburn is ugly. Moisturize, moisturize, moisturize. Bring petroleum jelly for your face and lips. I couldn't go out of the house the day after I got back because my nose and lips were cracked and peeling, and my windburn made me look like Groucho Marx, thick moustache and all.

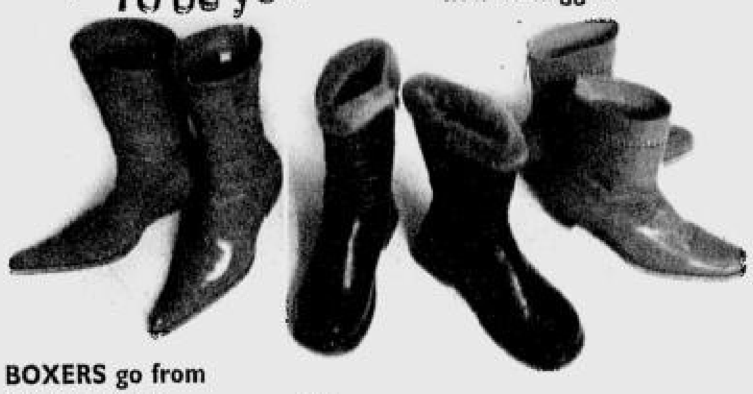
4. Be ruthless, at least when it comes to haggling. You may be able to get the goods for a 10th of the original price if you're good enough. A good style is pretending to walk away after pretending to be shocked at their insanely high price. That will have them running after you. Also, remember to browse before you start haggling. Most stalls carry duplicate items; if one vendor refuses to give in, there's a 99.9 percent chance that another one will. If guilt is starting to wash over you and you feel like you're being too cruel, just think of the Westerners who don't know the first thing about haggling and immediately shell out the asking price. Think of your excessive haggling as your way of bringing justice to them.

5. Know when to stop. An Indian man saw a cashmere twin set that he liked. Two hundred eighty, the vendor said. He shook his head. Fifty, he said. They kept haggling and finally reached the very reasonable amount of 90 yuan. Did he buy it? No. He walked away, leaving the vendor seething.

6. Cab drivers in Beijing might just be as bad as the ones in Manila. Silk Alley was supposedly near our hotel. So why did it take us so long to get there? Because our cab driver was a magician who can make trips seem longer than they really are? No. Because our cab driver was a shady character who wanted to make a few extra yuans off a bunch of tourists? Yes. The ride to Silk Alley set us back 19 yuan as opposed to the ride back to the hotel, which was only 12 yuan. Sure, they give receipts and all, but that doesn't mean they can't pull one over you. Be careful.

7. Study the money. The smaller 5-bill is actually 50 cents and the small 2-bill is actually 20 cents.

8. Change your pesos before entering China. In Beijing, our currency is pretty much useless. Money changers wouldn't even change them. The Hong Kong dollar is powerful. Some stores in Silk Alley actually accept them.



BOOTS start at 480 but can go as low as 100 yuan, if you know how to haggle.

BOXERS go from 85 to 15 yuan, depending on your bargaining skills.

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

How I conquered . . .

From page C2

started talking and just settled for taking pictures.

We should have rented the audio tours available at the entrance of The Forbidden City, they said. That would have been better. But since we didn't, TJ had to crane his neck to eavesdrop on a group of old Hawaiian-Japanese who had received a kiss of luck from the gods and goddesses of tourism. One, their tour guide spoke clear English and, two, he actually had a sense of humor.

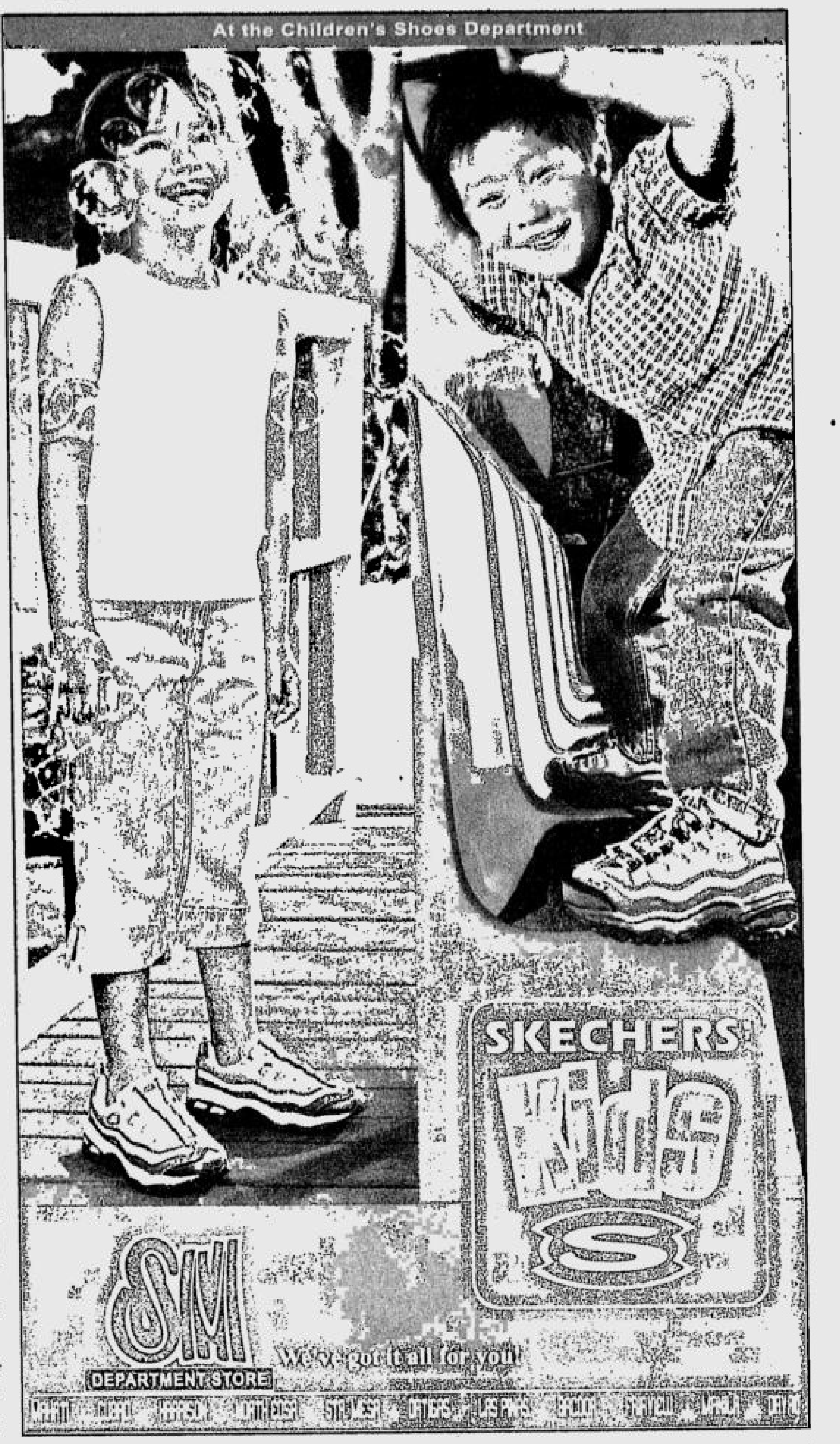
Not to say that our tour guide didn't try. She tried one joke after another but they were either impossible to understand or just too corny for words. It didn't help either that she kept ending her jokes with, "Get it? Get it?" No wonder most of us decided to just ignore her and sleep. But even that wasn't safe. I soon woke up to a tiny, high-pitched voice with heavy Chinese accent, singing, "Are you sleeping, are you sleeping, brother John?" I just closed my eyes and cringed until she finished the entire song.

Ugh. I still shudder when I think about it.

On our way back to the hotel, the tour guide rattled of a list of places where we could shop. On

THE ASKING price for this hand-stitched stole with faux fur trim is 580 yuan, but the vendor gave in to a hundred.

HOW/ p.C5



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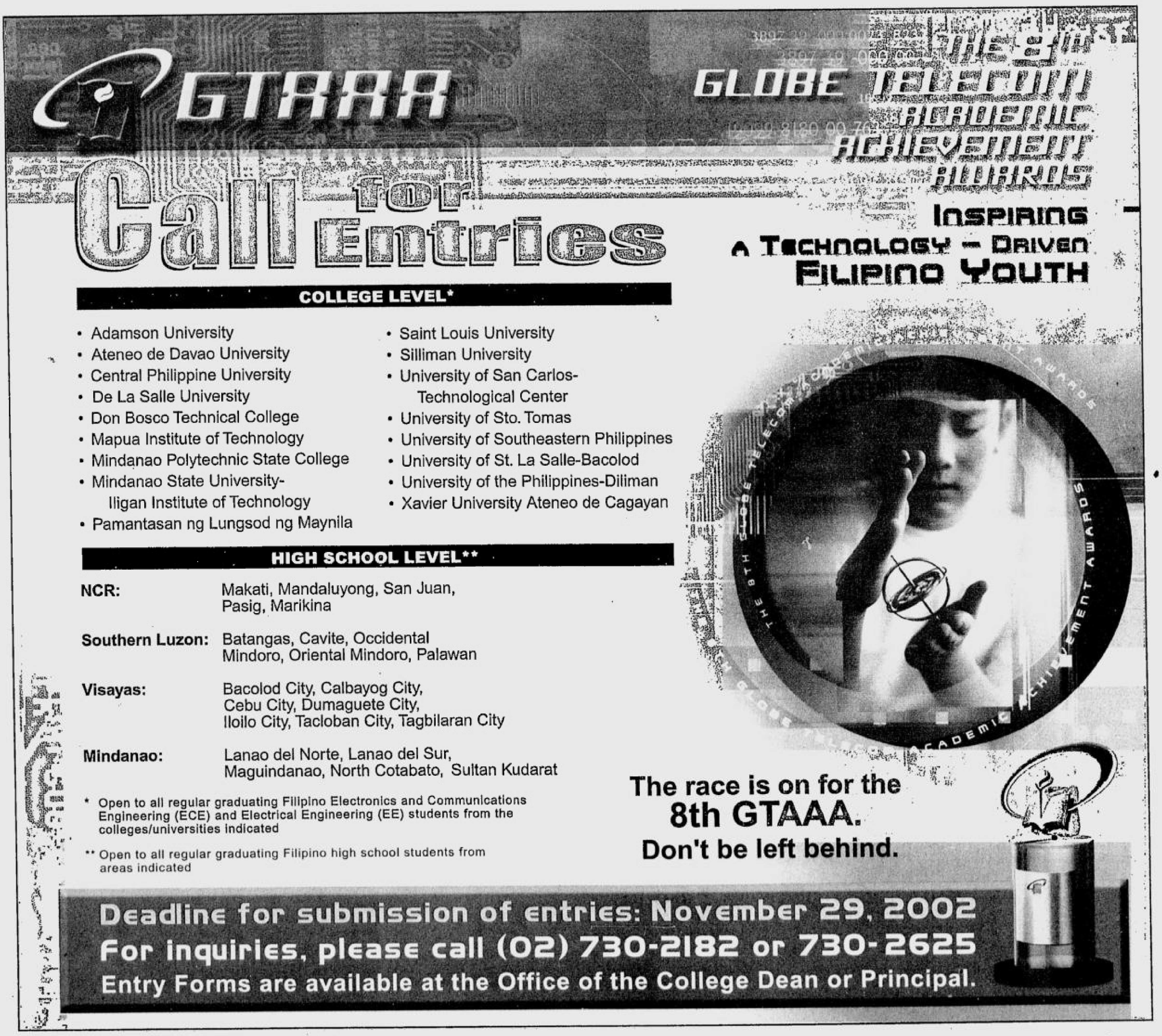

GTAAA
THE 8th GLOBE TELECOM ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
INSPIRING A TECHNOLOGY – DRIVEN FILIPINO YOUTH

Call for Entries

COLLEGE LEVEL*

- Adamson University
- Ateneo de Davao University
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- De La Salle University
- Don Bosco Technical College
- Mapua Institute of Technology
- Mindanao Polytechnic State College
- Mindanao State University-
  Iligan Institute of Technology
- Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila
- Saint Louis University
- Silliman University
- University of San Carlos-
  Technological Center
- University of Sto. Tomas
- University of Southeastern Philippines
- University of St. La Salle-Bacolod
- University of the Philippines-Diliman
- Xavier University Ateneo de Cagayan

HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL**

NCR: Makati, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Pasig, Marikina
Southern Luzon: Batangas, Cavite, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan
Visayas: Bacolod City, Calbayog City, Cebu City, Dumaguete City, Iloilo City, Tacloban City, Tagbilaran City
Mindanao: Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat

* Open to all regular graduating Filipino Electronics and Communications Engineering (ECE) and Electrical Engineering (EE) students from the colleges/universities indicated

** Open to all regular graduating Filipino high school students from areas indicated

The race is on for the 8th GTAAA.
Don't be left behind.

Deadline for submission of entries: November 29, 2002
For inquiries, please call (02) 730-2182 or 730-2625
Entry Forms are available at the Office of the College Dean or Principal.

Which new phone are you?

By Pam Pastor

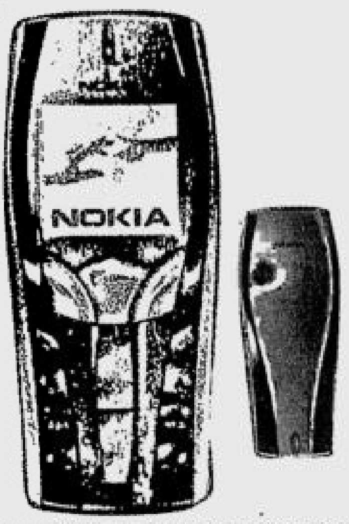
IF YOU'RE still drooling over the Nokia 7650 and the 7210, better check yourself. This new batch of phones will have you swooning.

Last week, in Beijing, media people from all over Asia-Pacific got the chance to preview Nokia phones set to be released early next year, in an event called, "Spellbound… Mobility. Messaging. Style. Be Mesmerized." And we were.

The new batch of Nokia phones suits different personalities

Answer these questions and find out which new Nokia phone matches your personality:

1) ***If someone was to look for you in the mall, they'd most likely find you...***
   - a) ... at the shops, checking out the clothes, of course.
   - b) ... at the sports store or the arcade.
   - c) ... nowhere. You're too busy to go to the mall.
   - d) ... watching a movie or eating.
   - e) ... all over. You own the mall!
   - f) ... at Internet cafés or computer shops. You live a hi-tech life!
2) ***At parties, you...***
   - a) ... take pictures of everyone.
   - b) ... entertain people and is the first to participate in games.
   - c) ... Parties? You don't have time for parties, unless it's work-related.
   - d) ... stay with your friends.
   - e) ... wow people with elegance and style.
   - f) ... wow people with your gorgeous new phone.
3) ***Why do you have a phone?***
   - a) Phones complement your outfit.
   - b) You need it to call your loved ones from whichever mountain you're climbing.
   - c) To keep track of your appointments, and so that your office can reach you anytime, anywhere.
   - d) To keep in touch with your friends.
   - e) It's sleek and stylish—just like you.
   - f) You're a gadget freak.
4) ***Which is the most important mobile phone feature for you?***
   - a) Camera
   - b) Durability
   - c) Organizer
   - d) Picture editor
   - e) Bluetooth
   - f) Easy-input keyboard
5) ***Friends would most likely describe you as...***
   - a) ... fashionable.
   - b) ... athletic.
   - c) ... busy.
   - d) ... simple.
   - e) ... elegant and sophisticated.
   - f) ... a techno-freak.



Mostly As

Nokia 7250

"An eye for beauty"

Dimensions: Weight: 92 g; Length: 105 mm; Width: 44 mm; Thickness: 19 mm

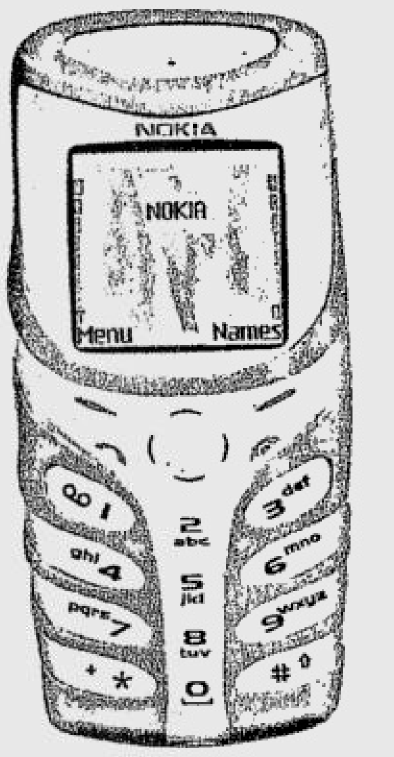
Talktime: 2-5 hours

Standby Time: 150-300 hours

Accessories: travel charger, mobile charger, boom headset, stereo headset, music stand, car kit, PC Suite, Xpress-on color covers

Special features: Integrated camera, high-resolution color display, polyphonic tones, FM radio, MMS (Multimedia Messaging Service), GPRS (General Packet Radio Service), Tri-band, Java Technology, mobile wallet.

After the launch of the Nokia 7210, people have constantly been saying, "*Kulang na lang* camera." The 7250 answers that need. "This is the haute couture for mobile phones around the world," according to its makers. Compact, lightweight and very sleek, people will undoubtedly be drawn to the 7250's aesthetic appeal.



Mostly Bs

Nokia 5100

"Made for adrenaline"

Dimensions: Weight: 104 g; Length: 108.5 mm; Width: 49.5 mm; Thickness: 22 mm

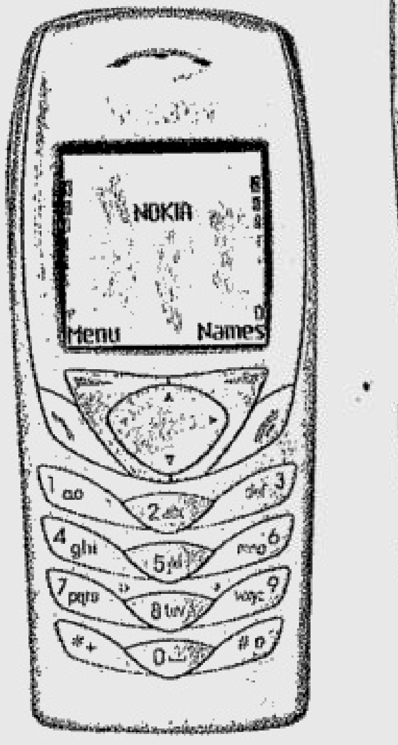
Talktime: 2-5 hours

Standby Time: 150-300 hours

Accessories: travel charger, mobile charger, headrest handsfree, stereo handset, boom headset, camera headset, Xpress-on color shells, retractable headset

Special features: high resolution color display, handsfree speaker, FM radio, flashlight, thermometer, calorie counter, automatic volume control, sound meter, MMS, Java Technology, polyphonic ringing tones, Tri-band.

Perhaps it can be said that this phone is the 5210 modified. Nokia claims that the 5100 will be able to absorb greater shock and be able to resist heat, dust and moisture better than its predecessor. This is one for the athletic and active lifestyles.



Mostly Cs

Nokia 6100

"Keep it together"

Dimensions: Weight: 78 g; Length: 102 mm; Width: 44 mm; Thickness: minimum of 13.55 mm, maximum of 17.2 mm

Talktime: 2-5 hours

Standby Time: 150-300 hours

Accessories: car kit, headrest handsfree, stereo headset, travel charger, mobile charger, camera headset

Special features: synchronization with a compatible PC with the use of PC Suite, mobile wallet, Java technology, MMS, handsfree speaker, polyphonic ringing tones, high resolution color display, Tri-band.

The phone aims to cater to the needs of those with busy schedules. The enhanced calendar will lend a hand in organizing one's hectic lifestyle. The 6100 is a phone for an older market, a phone that will be appreciated by executives.

Mostly Ds

Nokia 2100

"Basics with a twist"

Dimensions: Weight: 85 g; Length: 105.6 mm; Width: 44.2 mm; Thickness: 19 mm

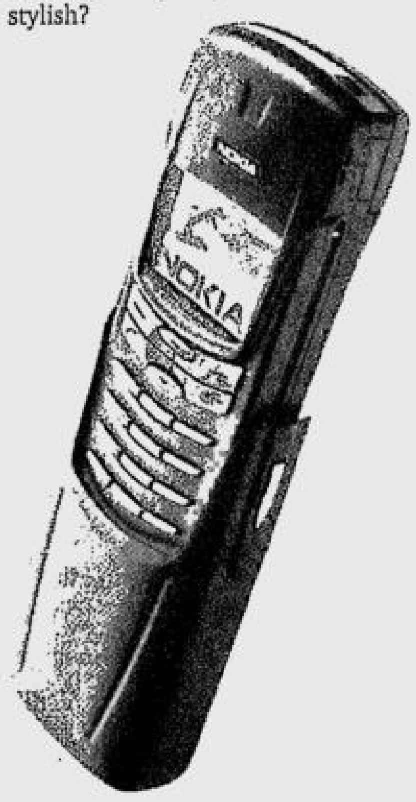
Talktime: 2-3 hours and 20 minutes

Standby Time: 50-150 hours

Accessories: travel charger, battery charging stand, mobile charger, plug and play handsfree, microphone, headset, Xpress-on color covers

Special features: trendy photo window on back cover, animated screensavers, picture editor, dual band.

This is for the minimalists. Hardly any frills, with maximum usability. This phone will fit people who don't want to be bogged down with acronyms they can only half-understand. Who says simplicity can't be stylish?



Mostly Es

Nokia 8910i

"The titanium cased"

Dimensions: Weight: 110 g; Length: 103/140 mm; Width: 40 mm; Thickness: 20 mm

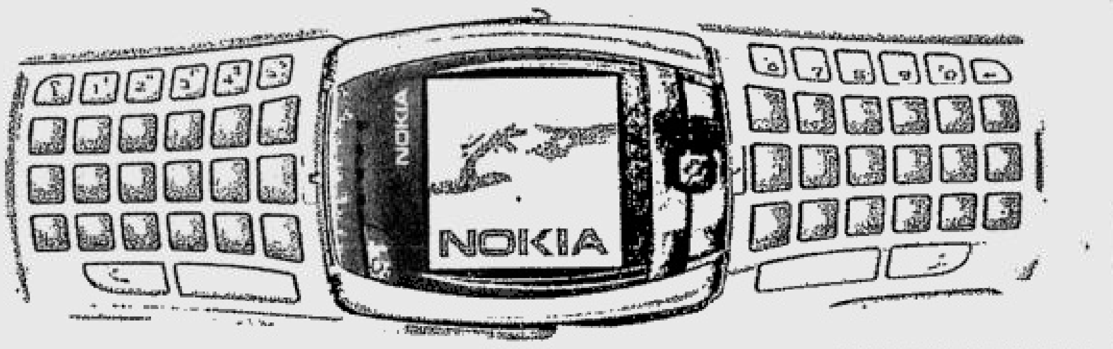
Talktime: 2 hours and 30 minutes to 4 hours and 30 minutes

Standby Time: 150-300 hours

Accessories: travel charger, charging stand, headrest handsfree, mobile charger, headset, dual headset, boom headset, wireless car kit, wireless headset

Special features: high-resolution color display, MMS, titanium outer casing with handgrip cover, Java technology, Bluetooth, PC Suite, Tri-band.

The sophistication and elegance of the 8910, plus the color of a high-resolution display—that is the 8910i.



Mostly Fs

Nokia 6800

"Keyboard in your palm"

Dimensions: Weight: 122 g; Length: 119 mm; Width: minimum of 23 mm, maximum of 55 mm; Thickness: 22 mm

Talktime: 3-7 hours

Standby Time: 168-360 hours

Accessories: travel charger, mobile holder, headrest handsfree, car kit, mobile charger, camera headset, boom headset, stereo headset, music stand, battery-charging stand, retractable headset

Special features: E-mail, MMS, full keyboard, notepad application, SMS distribution list, high resolution color display, handsfree speaker, FM radio, polyphonic ringing tones, Java technology, mobile wallet, PC Suite, dual band.

With just one flip, the Nokia 6800 transforms, revealing a qwerty keyboard that will make faster text input possible. But unlike the bulky 5510, the Nokia 6800 can be turned back into a regular-sized phone with the flick of a wrist. That's beauty, convenience and innovation in one small package.

WIRELESS headset

CAMERA headset

MUSIC stand

Telly Tonka and the mobile phone factory

NO, contrary to what you think, your phones did not just drop from heaven.

We visited China's BNMT (Beijing Capital Nokia Mobile Telecommunications) plant to see where the phones are made and to observe the process they go through before they find their way to your hands.

The Xingwang Industrial Park is home to different companies that produce raw materials for Nokia. These materials are then transported to the BNMT, which is also in the park, where they are assembled and transformed into phones ready for your use.

Step 1: In the board assembly department, the small components of the phones are, well, assembled.

Step 2: Next is the flash alignment phase where programs and GSM specs are downloaded into the phone.

Step 3: The keypad, LCD and mechanical parts are added in the user interface module.

Step 4: These parts are then tested.

Step 5: The final cover is added.

Step 6: Labels are attached, along with the serial number and security settings.

Step 7: Phones are then packed and accessories are added.

Step 8: The phones are again tested at Nokia's product-testing laboratories. The phones are checked for durability and humidity tolerance, among other things.

It doesn't matter which corner of the world they are made—all Nokia phones go through the same process and are created using the same global standards. So the next time some mobile phone vendor tries to pull one over you and tells you Finland phones are more expensive because they're better, you can tell them to give you a break. *PP*

The Nokia you're holding may have come from the merry Chinese industrial park where phones are produced like, well, chocolates

How I conquered (sort of) . . .

From page C3

Wangfujing, she said, the stores are open all night. That was the only time I really, really listened to her. Then again, say the magic word (read: shop) and I would always be all ears.

So that night, we took our time, enjoyed a delightfully long fusion dinner and returned to the hotel before stepping out to shop. We did have all night to splurge, right? Wrong.

We stared at the length of Wangfujing, confused and almost open-mouthed. "Is this the right street?" we asked one another, getting answers in the affirmative.

The stores were chained and locked up, and the street was starting to go dark. We stopped a young Chinese couple walking on the street. "Where can we go shopping?" Menchu asked just to make sure.

They smiled at each other quizzically. "Now? No more. Stores close at nine."

The shops were closed and we were leaving the next day. We tried to hide our disappointment and just went for drinks at the hotel's lobby bar.

In her twisted way, our flaky tour guide earned my respect. That was vengeance at its finest.

Ripley's

My biggest pet peeve is people spitting on streets. But believe it or not, I actually saw a guy spit inside a mall. He just let loose and walked off as if nothing extraordinary happened. I was frozen in place for a few seconds, not comprehending what I just saw.

The same feeling hit me a couple of days later. Lunch was to be provided by the same company who provided the tour and the tour guide. We were seated at a round table, waiting for our food. The platters started to come. And since we were eating slowly, none of the first platters of food served could be taken away to be replaced with new ones. We expected the waiters to push the platters together and make extra room, but they didn't. They just dumped them on top of one another. That was more than enough to make one to lose her appetite. I know I did.

Money, money, money

"That will be 6.30," the girl from McDonald's said, after putting the vanilla milkshake on my tray. I handed her two fivers, wondering why the other one was smaller. Maybe they changed it and some of the old ones are still being used, I thought. The girl waved the bills at me, saying something very fast.

"What?" I kept asking. "Isn't this yuan?"

"No," she said, showing me the smaller bill. "Five cents. Five cents!"

There was nothing on the bill—at least nothing English—to indicate that it really was five cents. It was only two days later, through the help of a cab driver, that I realized that despite the "5" printed on the money, it actually meant 50 cents.

Haggling, Chinese-style

I came prepared. Printouts of maps and info on shopping areas—the fruits of my research—were hidden in the safety of my backpack. But due to the lack of time, we were only able to visit one place on my list—Silk Alley Market (Xiushui Shichang) at Jianguomenwai Dajie and Xiushui Jie, supposedly the most popular market. The short trip was enough to pacify the shopaholics in us.

Despite its name, there was hardly any silk sold in Silk Alley, save for boxers and ties. Clothes, shoes, bags and accessories filled the countless stalls of the several alleys that made up the market. The place was abundant with designer knock-offs, too, which I stayed away from.

Although the asking prices are usually high, skills in haggling will get you far. I was able to get boots for 100 yuan, when the vendor was originally asking for 400. I got my mom's gold silk robe for 100, too, when the original price was 900. Another hundred got me a gorgeous stole, which was supposedly 580.

These vendors are a funny lot. My favorite was a woman selling boxers. As I picked out a white one that had kiss marks and hearts printed all over them, she said, "Ooh, for your boyfriend? Very sexy!"

They can be pretty persistent, and it's up to you to match that with your own determination. I preferred to butter them up a bit by making them laugh and then firmly sticking to my desired price. I knew when to quit, too—when smoke would start coming out of their ears.

Amazing service

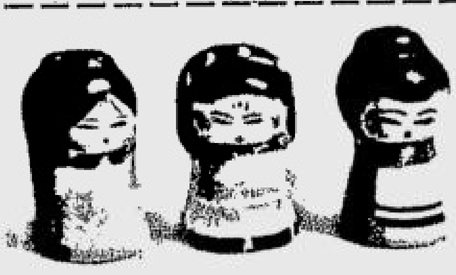
Grand Hyatt Beijing was already pretty "grand" to begin with. The rooms were nice, the food excellent, the resort-like pool plain gorgeous. It didn't end there. Two uniformed men assisted us with our baggage when we got off the service in the airport's departure area. At first, we thought they were airport personnel until they said that they were from the hotel. These two men assisted us with our luggage, collected our money, queued up and paid for our airport tax, and helped us check in. Now that was great and unexpected service.

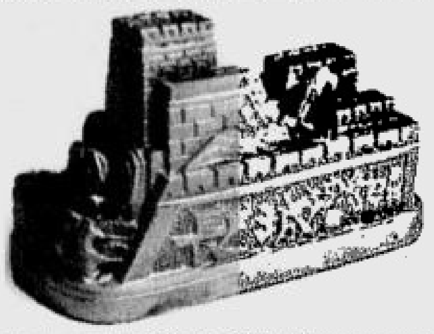
That was my Beijing experience. It was fun, funny, crazy, enriching—definitely something I'd like to go through again.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

SILK ALLEY MARKET. Home to designer knockoffs and excellent discounts

PHOTO: PAM PASTOR





2BU! TOUR MEMENTO PROMO

What would you have done on the Great Wall of China?

IF you want to win these goodies from Beijing, answer the question above. Send your entries to contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph, fax 897-4793 or 94 or snail mail 2bU! Contest, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Don't forget to put your name, age, school, address and contact numbers. Deadline for submission of entries is Nov. 20, 12 nn.

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

CUP NOODLES
SEAFOOD
CUP NOODLES
CHICKEN
CUP NOODLES
CUP NOODLES
SHRIMP
CUP NOODLES
BULALO
COLLECT!
DRAGONBALL Z STICKERS IN OUR COLLECTI-CUPS
*AVAILABLE IN REGULAR & MINI CUPS
CREATE!
MAKE STORIES USING THE STICKERS
GO CRAZY!
WIN SONY PLAYSTATION II & NOKIA CELL PHONES
nissin
CUP NOODLES
COLLECTI-CUPS
PowerVentures
DRAGONBALL Z

Mechanics:

1. The contest is open to students except professional animators, cartoonists, graphic artists.
2. There will be 2 categories:
   - **Gohan Category** – open to participants 7 to 15 years old.
   - **Gokou Category** – open to participants 16 years old and above.
3. Collect Dragonball Z stickers you can find in Nissin Cup Noodles Collecti-cups. Using the stickers you have collected, use your creativity and imagination to create a story based on on your chosen theme on an 8 .5" x 11" board.
4. An entry will require a minimum of 30 sticker designs for the whole story.
5. At the back of the entry, write your name, address, telephone number, age, name of your school/office and signature.
6. Send your entries to: P.O. Box 1239 Makati Central Post Office, 1252 Makati City.
7. Prizes at stake:
   - **(6) Grand Prize Winners of Sony Playstation II**
   - **(10) Consolation Prize Winners of Nokia 5210 Cellphones**

   There will be 3 Grand Prize Winners and 5 Consolation Prize Winners per category.
8. Criteria for Judging:

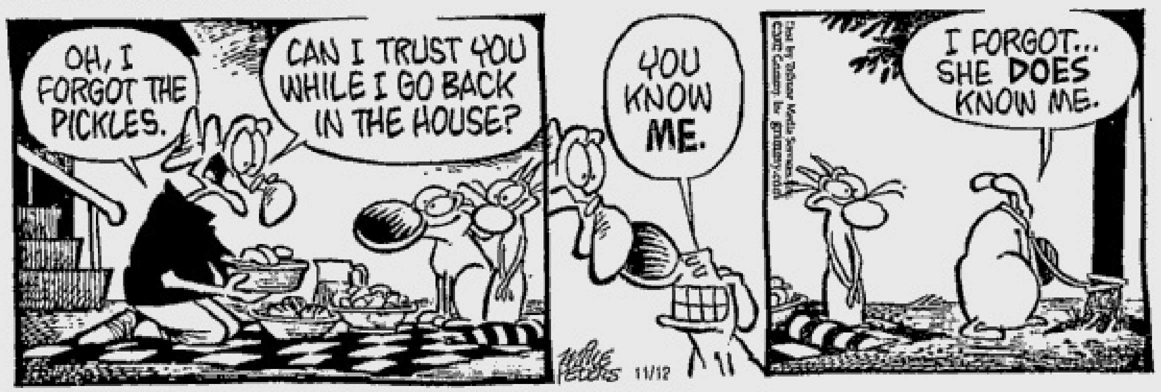
Creativity	40%
Originality	40%
Variety of Stickers	20%
Total	100%

9. Promo is from **October 1 to December 30, 2002.** Deadline of submission of entries is on **December 20, 2002.**
10. Pre-screening of entries will be as follows:
    For entries received from **October 1 – November 14,** pre-screening will be on **November 15, 2002.**
    Entries received from **November 15 – December 20** , pre-screening will be on **December 21, 2002.**
11. All entries that qualify during the pre-screening will go on to compete in the final judging on **December 22, 2002.**
12. Winners will be announced via press releases in major publications by **January 14, 2003.**
13. Winners will be notified by telephone and/or registered mail.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit # 0754, Series of 2002

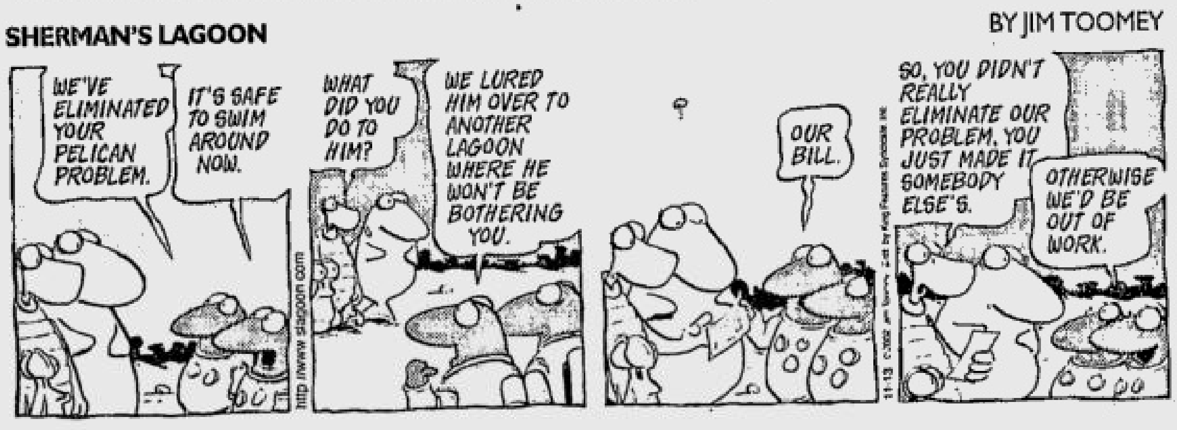
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


OH, I FORGOT THE PICKLES.
CAN I TRUST YOU WHILE I GO BACK IN THE HOUSE?
YOU KNOW ME.
I FORGOT... SHE DOES KNOW ME.
MIKE PETERS 11/12

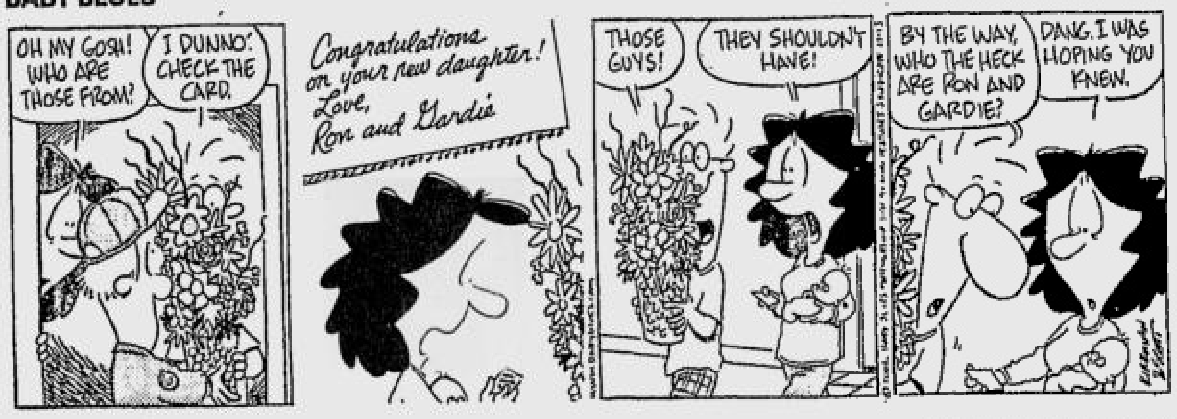
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WE'VE ELIMINATED YOUR PELICAN PROBLEM.
IT'S SAFE TO SWIM AROUND NOW.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?
WE LURED HIM OVER TO ANOTHER LAGOON WHERE HE WON'T BE BOTHERING YOU.
?
OUR BILL.
SO, YOU DIDN'T REALLY ELIMINATE OUR PROBLEM, YOU JUST MADE IT SOMEBODY ELSE'S.
OTHERWISE WE'D BE OUT OF WORK.
http://www.slagoon.com

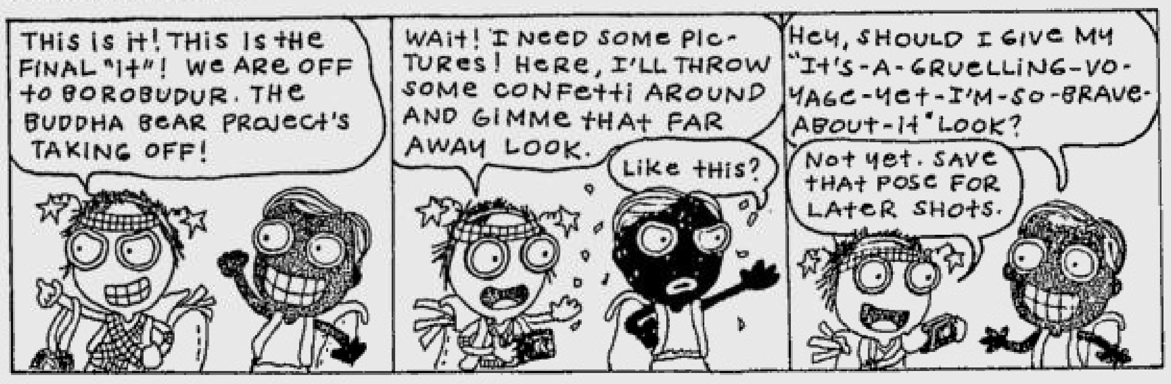
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


OH MY GOSH! WHO ARE THOSE FROM?
I DUNNO. CHECK THE CARD.
Congratulations on your new daughter! Love, Ron and Gardie
THOSE GUYS!
THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE!
BY THE WAY, WHO THE HECK ARE RON AND GARDIE?
DANG. I WAS HOPING YOU KNEW.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


This is it! This is the FINAL "it"! We are off to BOROBUDUR. The BUDDHA BEAR Project's TAKING OFF!
Wait! I need some pictures! Here, I'll throw some confetti around and gimme that far away look.
Like this?
Hey, should I give my "It's-a-gruelling-voyage-yet-I'm-so-brave-about-it" look?
Not yet. Save that pose for later shots.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Richard Mulligan, Whoopi Goldberg, Joe Mantegna, Chris Noth

Happy Birthday: Your tendency to dream can be good as long as you follow through and try to turn your spectacular ideas into reality. Peace of mind can be yours if you are true to yourself and your ideals. Put yourself in the dynamic position that you have been fantasizing about for so long. Your numbers are 8, 14, 21, 29, 33, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): This is not the best day to lend money or belongings to friends. If you do, don't expect them to be returned. You must avoid extravagance or you will find yourself in a financial bind.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may want to make career changes. Don't leave just to get away from someone you don't like working with. Any changes you make should be based on what is best for you professionally.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will attract members of the opposite sex with your charm, quick wit and versatile mind. You can borrow from someone who believes in your ideas. Don't be afraid to ask.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You need some private time to figure out your plans for the future. You are ready to make changes regarding career and personal life. You can make extra cash through sound investments.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You have left your personal life on hold for long enough. Tell someone of your intentions and consider taking a pleasure trip with the one you love.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can do your best work today if you concentrate on detail and working by yourself. Don't try to enlist the help of others—they will prove to be unreliable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make plans to go ahead with that change you've been considering. You will have the discipline to stop those bad habits and start a regimen that you can stick to. You will have extra energy, so take on extra work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone you love may be trying to make you feel guilty. Watch out for emotional blackmail. You must look after your own best interests. Don't give in to idle threats and beware of empty promises.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A friend may ask you to do unreasonable things. You must learn to say no rather than overload your plate. Take some time to look after yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): This is not a good day to lend money to a friend. Losses will occur if you are careless with your belongings. Don't be too speedy and pay attention to what you are doing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Acceptance will be the key to happiness. You must let go of the past that haunts you. New friends, new lovers, new adventures can all be yours if you'll take the first step.

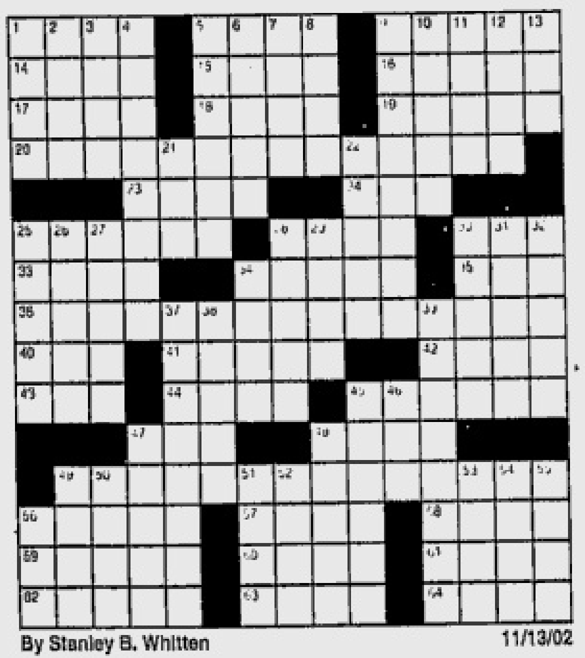
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone may be trying to undermine you. Be observant and keep your thoughts to yourself for the time being. Eventually it will all become clear.

Birthday Baby: You will be creative and caring, giving of yourself and your time to make things better for others. You will contribute insight to those you encounter throughout your life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Shindig
5 Choir member
9 Page of music
14 Killer whale
15 Social affairs
16 Farm measures
17 Connery or Penn
18 Statuesque
19 Causes turbulence
20 National election issue
23 McKellen and McEwan
24 German article
25 Strongarm man
28 Marshes
30 Wife's address
33 Gobi Desert site
34 Crownlet
35 Evergreen shrub
36 National election issue
40 Past
41 Infiltrators
42 Subside
43 Harmless cyst
44 William Howard or Robert
45 Some blue wildflowers
47 __ Luis Obispo, CA
48 Brit's trunk
49 National election issue
56 Senior
57 Part of an egg
58 Yard-sale warning words
59 Lyon's river
60 First name in mystery
61 Movie: pref.
62 Lew of "Dr. Kildare" movies
63 Remain
64 Romanov title

DOWN
1 Nonsense
2 Location
3 Read quickly
4 Golf equalizer
5 Harmonize
6 Inclines
7 Body powder
8 Capital of Norway
9 Guerrilla
10 Oak-to-be
11 Middle section of a scherzo
12 Narrate
13 Orbiting loc.
21 Lass
22 Pola of the silents
25 Large parrot
26 Habitual practice
27 Singer Carly
28 Intelligence test pioneer
29 Clumsy clods
30 Asian starlings
31 Right-hand page
32 Use the broom
34 Wage-slave's refrain
37 Fred and Adele
38 Bristol-Myers toothpaste
39 Theoretical
45 Game on ice
46 __ don't say
47 Play part
48 Abzug or Spewack
49 Bump off
50 Smell
51 Caustic substances
52 Categorize
53 Egyptian goddess of fertility
54 Turner of song
55 WW I battle site
56 Continental NASA equivalent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By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

11/13/02

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

P	U	R	R	■	W	A	R	M	■	S	O	C	K	S
E	P	E	E	■	I	D	E	A	■	P	R	I	N	T
T	O	A	L	E	S	S	E	R	D	E	G	R	E	E
E	N	D	I	V	E	■	F	L	U	E	■	C	E	E
■	■	■	S	E	A	M	■	O	D	D	B	A	L	L
B	A	C	H	■	C	A	D	■	E	W	E	■	■	■
E	D	O	■	C	R	U	E	T	■	A	T	S	E	A
T	O	O	C	L	E	V	E	R	B	Y	H	A	L	F
A	S	T	R	O	■	E	M	I	R	S	■	S	K	A
■	■	■	O	C	T	■	S	E	E	■	C	H	E	R
W	R	A	C	K	E	D	■	D	A	T	A	■	■	■
A	O	L	■	W	A	I	T	■	K	I	M	O	N	O
T	W	O	F	O	R	T	H	E	S	E	E	S	A	W
T	E	N	O	R	■	T	E	R	I	■	T	H	I	N
S	L	E	E	K	■	O	M	A	N	■	O	A	F	S

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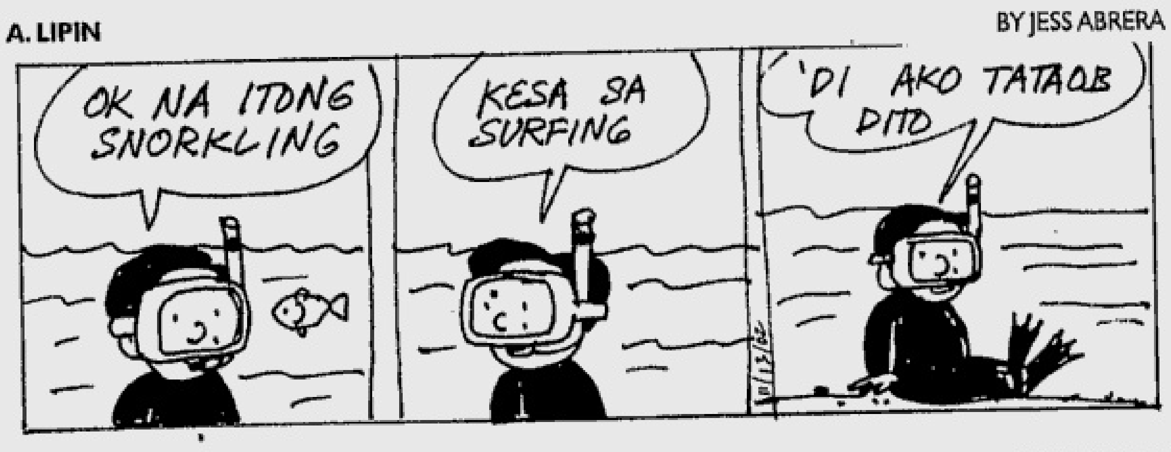
11/13/02

Stumped? Call 900-656-8900. 99 cents a minute

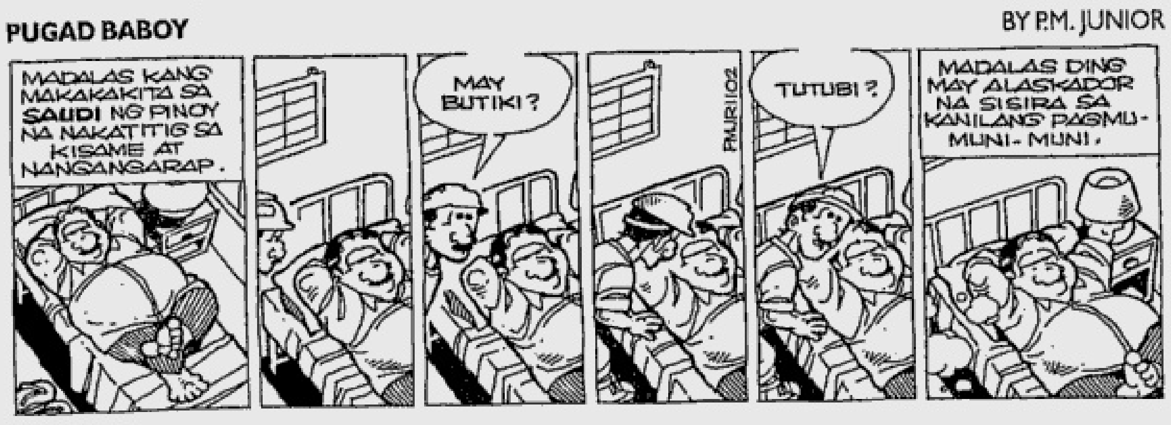
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


OK NA ITONG SNORKLING
KESA SA SURFING
'DI AKO TATAOB DITO
11/13/02

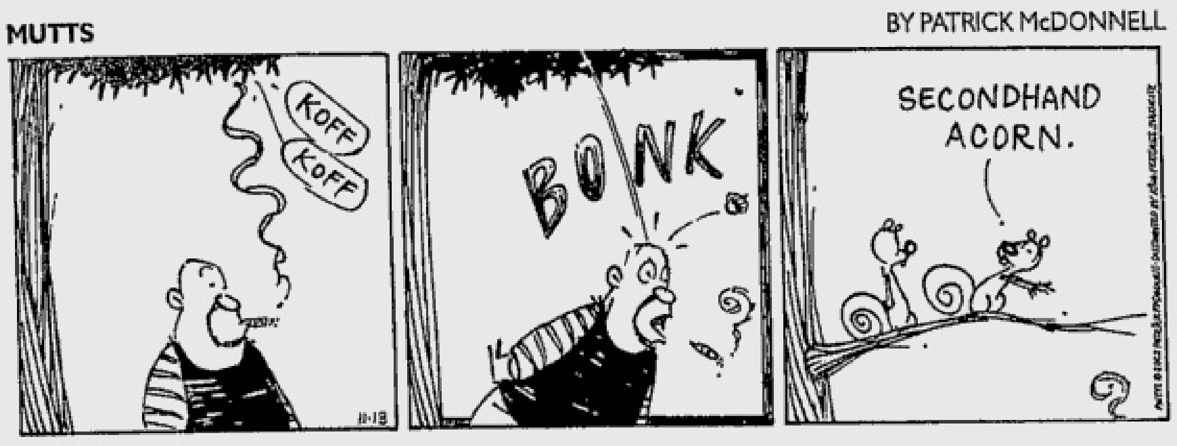
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MADALAS KANG MAKAKAKITA SA SAUDI NG PINOY NA NAKATITIG SA KISAME AT NANGANGARAP.
MAY BUTIKI?
TUTUBI?
MADALAS DING MAY ALASKADOR NA SISIRA SA KANILANG PAGMU-MUNI-MUNI.

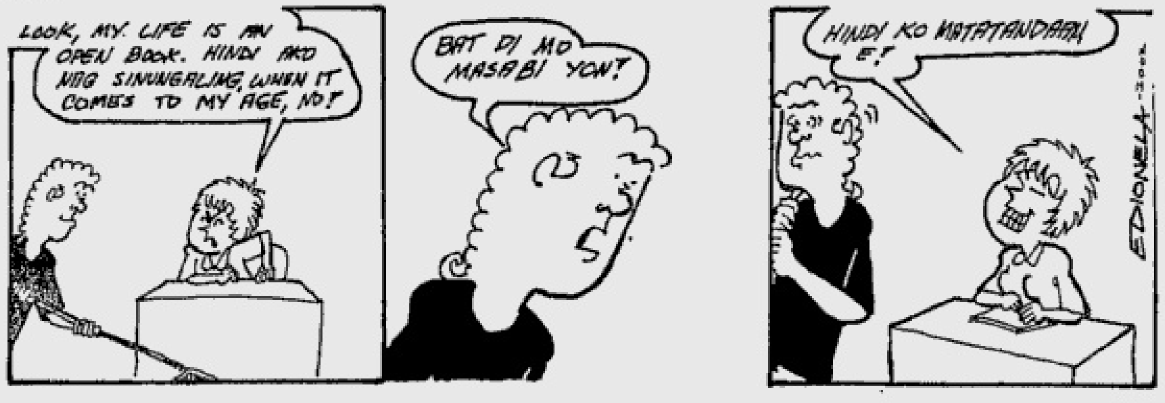
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


KOFF
KOFF
BONK
SECONDHAND ACORN.

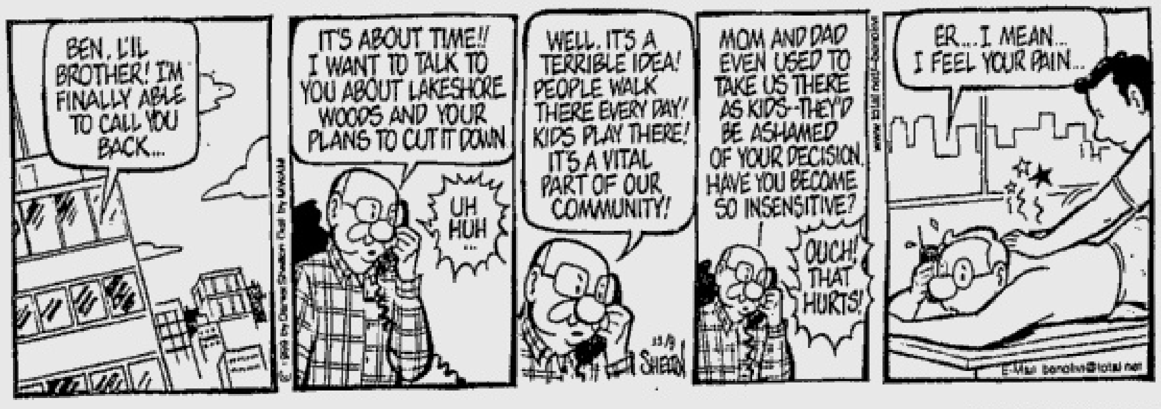
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


LOOK, MY LIFE IS AN OPEN BOOK. HINDI AKO NAG SINUNGALING, WHEN IT COMES TO MY AGE, NO!
BAT DI MO MASABI YON?
HINDI KO MATANDAAN E!
EDIONELA

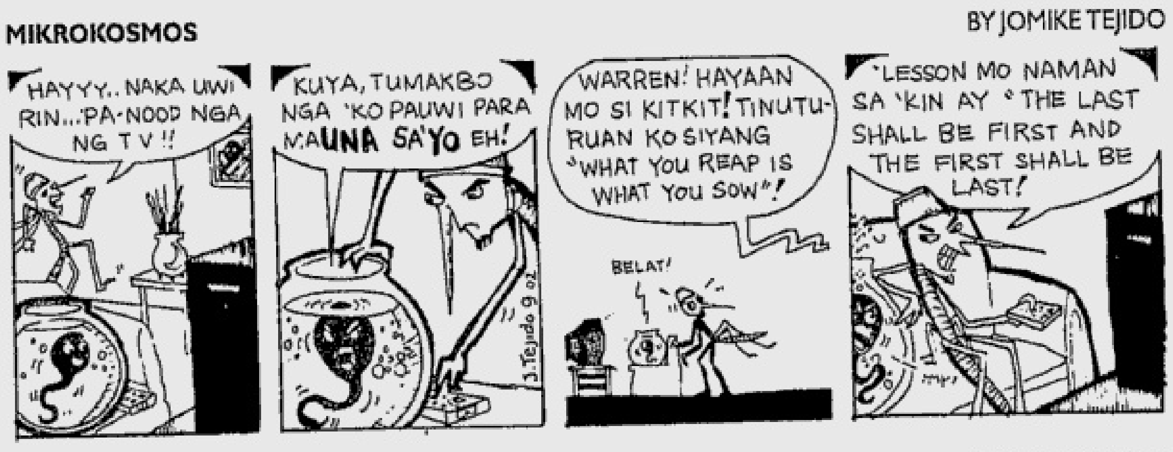
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN, L'IL BROTHER! I'M FINALLY ABLE TO CALL YOU BACK...
IT'S ABOUT TIME!! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT LAKESHORE WOODS AND YOUR PLANS TO CUT IT DOWN.
UH HUH...
WELL, IT'S A TERRIBLE IDEA! PEOPLE WALK THERE EVERY DAY! KIDS PLAY THERE! IT'S A VITAL PART OF OUR COMMUNITY!
MOM AND DAD EVEN USED TO TAKE US THERE AS KIDS—THEY'D BE ASHAMED OF YOUR DECISION. HAVE YOU BECOME SO INSENSITIVE?
OUCH! THAT HURTS!
ER... I MEAN... I FEEL YOUR PAIN...

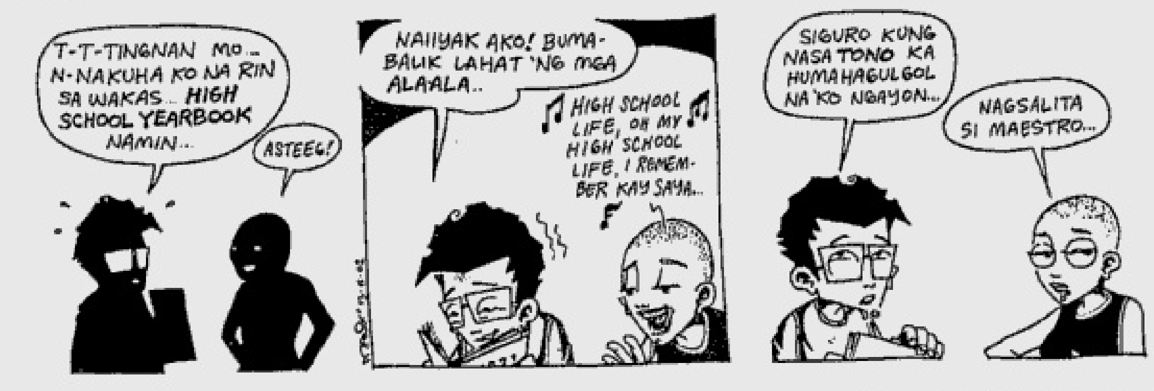
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HAYYY.. NAKA UWI RIN...'PA-NOOD NGA NG T V !!
KUYA, TUMAKBO NGA 'KO PAUWI PARA MAUNA SA'YO EH!
WARREN! HAYAAN MO SI KITKIT! TINUTURUAN KO SIYANG "WHAT YOU REAP IS WHAT YOU SOW"!
BELAT!
"LESSON MO NAMAN SA 'KIN AY "THE LAST SHALL BE FIRST AND THE FIRST SHALL BE LAST!
J. Tejido 9 02

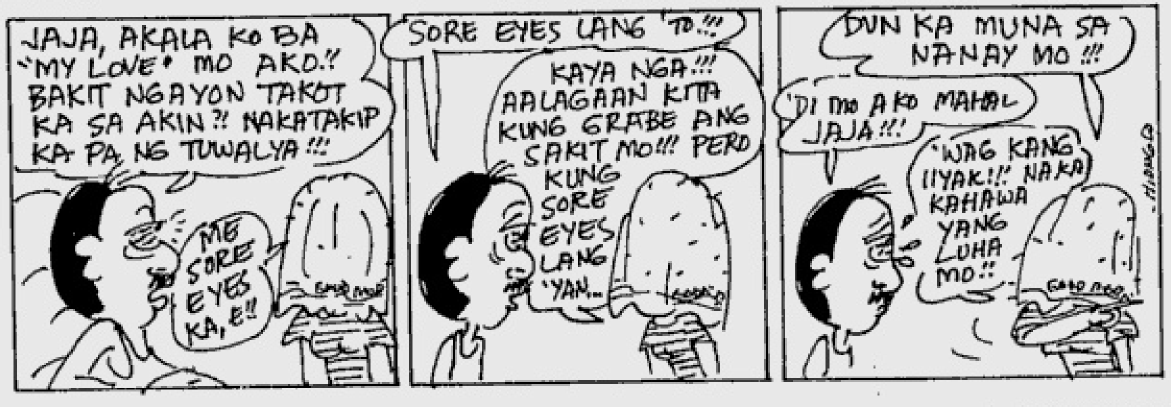
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


T-T-TINGNAN MO... N-NAKUHA KO NA RIN SA WAKAS... HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK NAMIN...
ASTEEG!
NAIIYAK AKO! BUMABALIK LAHAT 'NG MGA ALAALA..
HIGH SCHOOL LIFE, OH MY HIGH SCHOOL LIFE, I REMEMBER KAY SAYA..
SIGURO KUNG NASA TONO KA HUMAHAGULGOL NA 'KO NGAYON...
NAGSALITA SI MAESTRO...

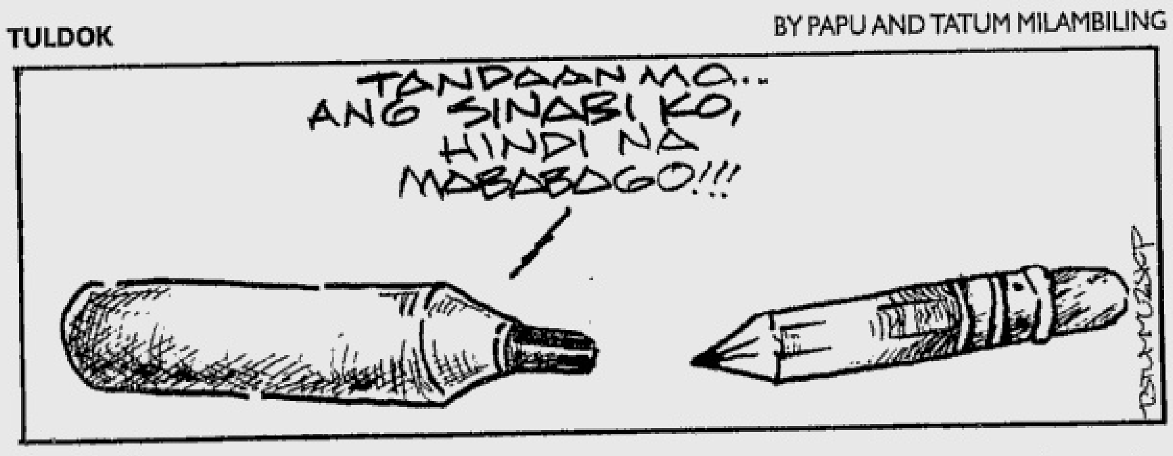
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, AKALA KO BA "MY LOVE" MO AKO.? BAKIT NGAYON TAKOT KA SA AKIN?! NAKATAKIP KA PA NG TUWALYA!!!
ME SORE EYES KA, E!!
SORE EYES LANG 'TO!!!
KAYA NGA!!! AALAGAAN KITA KUNG GRABE ANG SAKIT MO!!! PERO KUNG SORE EYES LANG 'YAN..
DUN KA MUNA SA NANAY MO!!!
'DI MO AKO MAHAL JAJA!!!
'WAG KANG IIYAK!! NAKAKAHAWA YANG LUHA MO!!

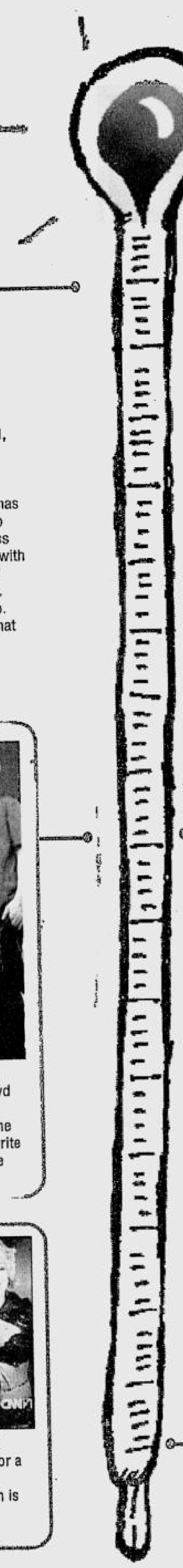
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TANDAAN MO... ANG SINABI KO, HINDI NA MABABAGO!!!

2BU! THERMOMETER

New ad is hot but J. Lo engagement is ho-hum



THE NEW Coke ad. "*Para sa lahat... mismo.*" The fusion of simplicity and creativity at its finest.

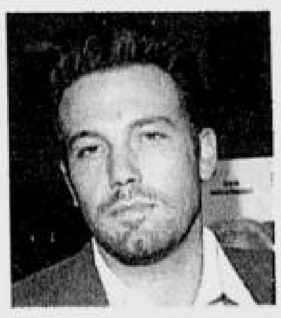
GOOD news for fans of Sixpence None the Richer. They have a new single out, "Divine Discontent."

WE hate deodorant sticks for leaving ugly white marks on shirts, so we love Dove's deodorant sticks—they don't.

AXN

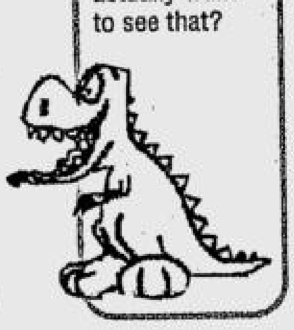
AXN marathons. Seven hours of "Survivor" and five hours of "Amazing Race" still keep our eyes riveted to the screen.

NORAH, Norah, Norah. Norah Jones has risen to goddess status with a lot of people. Us, too. Love that voice.



ENGAGED... again. J. Lo and Ben Affleck are set to tie the knot sometime soon. But, of course, she has to wait for her divorce to be finalized first.

JURASSIC Park IV? Does anyone actually want to see that?



WISH you were here. Incubus fans have reason to be sad. Brandon Boyd and the boys will disappear for six months. In an interview with CNN, he said, "I'm going surfing, going to write some music, unpack... haven't done that in a while."

KELLY Rowland's "Stole." Take a look at the lyrics: "She could've been a movie star/ Never got the chance to go that far/Her life was stole/Oh, now we'll never know... Now we'll never see him slam/Flying high as school began/ His life was stole/ Now we'll never know." Too bad. The song has a good message, but does it have to be so grammatically incorrect?

TLC's new album is out. If you're expecting something melancholy or a sentimental tribute to Lisa Lopes, you're in for a surprise. The album is sexy and danceable, just like the previous ones.

Legazpi has model program on child abuse prevention

THE BICOL Region is among the five regions in the Philippines with the highest incidence of child abuse. But the Bicolanos have not resigned themselves to their fate. An initiative by the Social Action Center-Legazpi (SAC-Legazpi) has made enough of a favorable impression that it has become a model for other nongovernment organizations which are also working in the area of child abuse.

SAC-Legazpi was established in 1972 as the social action arm of the Diocese of Legazpi. In 1999, armed with skills learned from the Child and Family Services, Philippines Inc. (CFSPI), SAC-Legazpi decided to take on child abuse prevention and rehabilitation as one of its major programs.

It set-up the Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Unit (Capiu), with the Consuelo Foundation and with technical support from the CFSPI, and launched organizing and networking initiatives targeting members of the five pillars of the justice system that could have an impact in the solution of the problem (prosecution, court, correction, law enforcement and the community) in selected areas.

The Capiu aims to promote and establish effective and efficient collaboration among the five pillars in the hope of preventing and appropriately managing child abuse cases.

Capiu was able to bring its message to 175 barangays. A total of 194 service providers have been trained in the various aspects of handling child abuse. Junior youth advocates, now numbering 113, are active in community-based advocacy. Awareness of the issue of child abuse has risen. The organization conducts information drives, training and education, and creation of effective mechanisms and structures like networks and alliances to achieve its goal. Networks and people's organizations are strengthened to contribute, reinforce and support good local governance; promote the welfare of children and women; and increase economic potentials/productivity of program partners.

These achievements earned SAC-Legazpi a nomination to the 2002 Consuelo Awards, which recognizes outstanding NGOs that have made a difference in the lives of Filipino children, women and families. The awards program is named after Consuelo Zobel Alger, founder of the nonprofit US-based foundation. The award, to be given on Nov. 27, will honor an NGO that has demonstrated excellence in fulfilling Consuelo's wish to "renew hope for those who have lost it or to give hope to those who never had it."

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apply online http://vsafe.mindgate.net/subscribe.cfm
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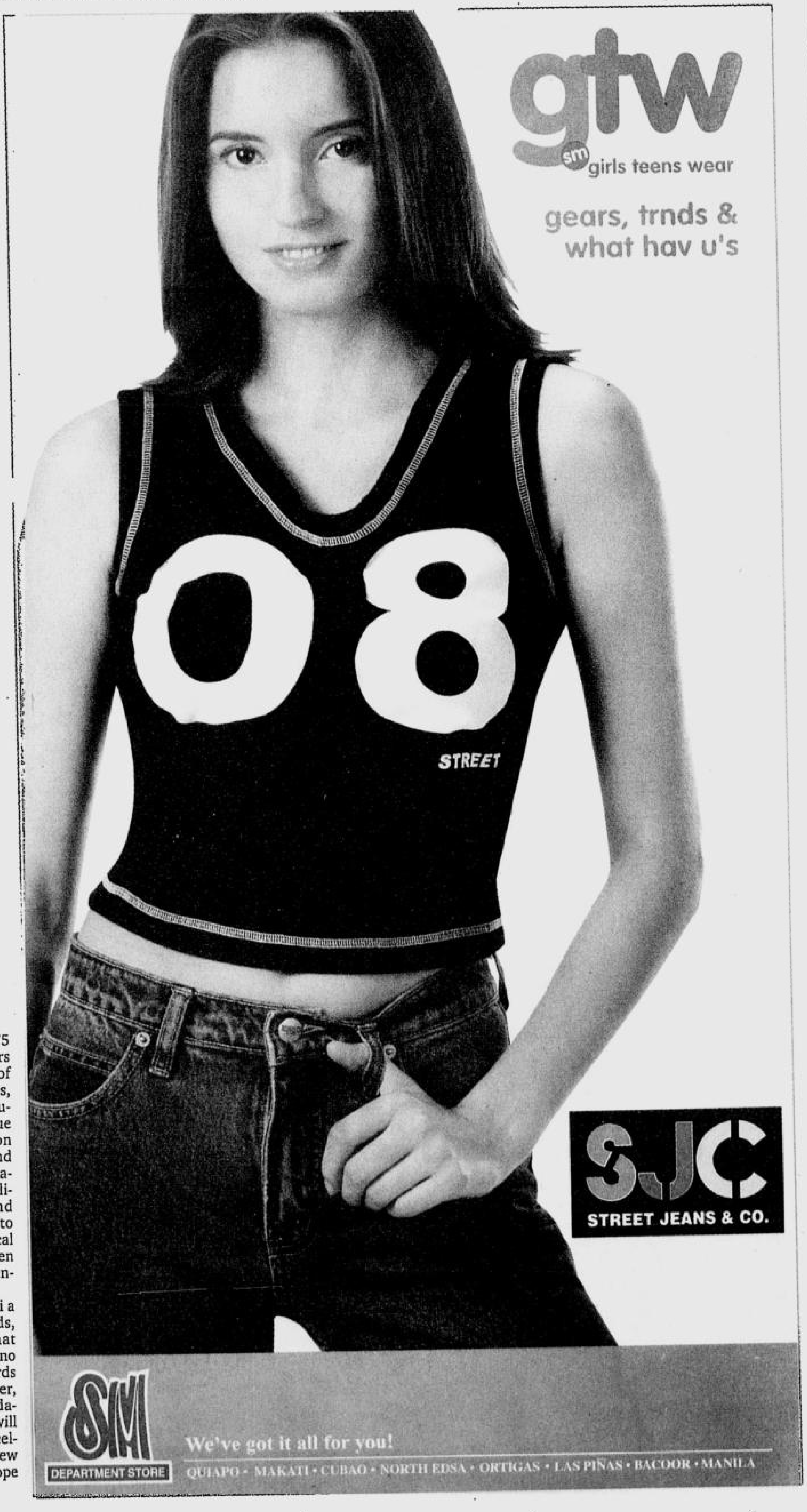

gtw
sm girls teens wear
gears, trnds & what hav u's
SJC
STREET JEANS & CO.
SM DEPARTMENT STORE
We've got it all for you!
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A fascinating sort of chow

If you're sick of noodles and dumplings, Beijing's Green T. House will give your palate a different kind of boost

TABLE for 24 at Green T. House

TAKING THE 'ADIDAS' TO ANOTHER LEVEL. This chair with chicken feet is made of velvet roses

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

THE MOMENT you step in, you realize that Green T. House is different. Uniformity is absent. Every table has a unique feel to it. There are tables for two right beside glass windows overlooking the street. There are low tables set in front of beautiful couches that you wish you could take home. In the center of the place is a table set for 24. Nothing is extraordinary about it, except that the backs of the chairs reach halfway to the ceiling. There are chairs with vines all over, the bar stools are covered with mirrors, there are couches made of neon green feathers, and a chair made of velvet roses with chicken-feet carvings for legs. There are candles all over the place, along with works of art. The room is white but it seems much more colorful than that. Perhaps it is the shadow of a clock that tells you the time. Or the projected images that dance on the wall. Perhaps it is your own excitement that gives the place color.

JIN R., the woman behind Green T. House's magic

Something about the place makes you feel that your party is the only one, even if there are other groups around you.

Even the food is different. It is "good-different." No, "excellent-different."

A large glass plate is set down in front of you. Twigs and leaves and vines surround it. "This is Field of Dreams," the manager says. Chinese pear slices topped with green tea mustard, walnuts and feta cheese stare up at you from the plate. "But I don't eat mustard," you mutter. "Neither do I. But they are good," the person beside you says, his eyes twinkling with delight.

Explosion of flavors

So you reach out and bite into one. And as you do, you almost feel the flavors exploding in your mouth, coming together to create one intense experience for your taste buds. Uh huh, you nod in agreement. These are great.

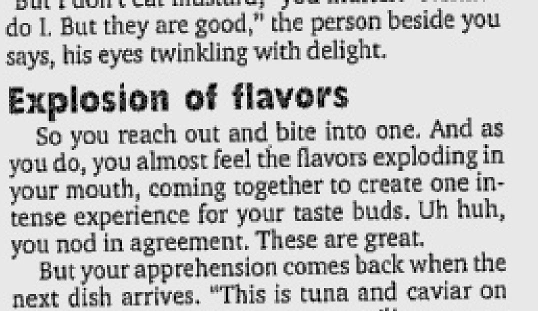
But your apprehension comes back when the next dish arrives. "This is tuna and caviar on rose petal," the manager says, smiling at you. You pick it up and pop it into your mouth. Again, the same feeling.

By this time, you are ready to try anything they serve—even insects, maybe even worms.

One after the other, the dishes come, in elaborate presentations using plates of all shapes and sizes and a lot of plants. The eggplant with mixed vegetables, nuts and cheese are a delight. The black tea roast duck is unforgettable. The lamb with cheese and onion is strong and flavorful. The six kinds of mushrooms are fresh and tasty. The mixed seafood with green tea garlic sauce is delicious. The pork and vegetable green tea dumplings are a far cry from the dumplings you have come to know. You wash everything down with fresh apple juice while the others around you enjoy tea in clay pots and jasmine tea beer. The delightful meal ends with a moderate serving of green tea ice cream.

After the meal, you have the chance to meet Jin R., the charming young musician/artist who owns the restaurant. This woman's magic created the furniture and artwork in the restaurant. She is also the one who whipped up the unforgettable dishes you have just enjoyed. You feel like bowing and groveling at her feet, but you settle for shaking her hand and you thank her for giving you a meal and a night you will never forget.

Green T. House is at 6 Gongti Xilu Chaoyang, Beijing, China. Call 65528310/6552831.



FIELD OF DREAMS. Chinese pear slices topped with green tea mustard, walnuts and feta cheese

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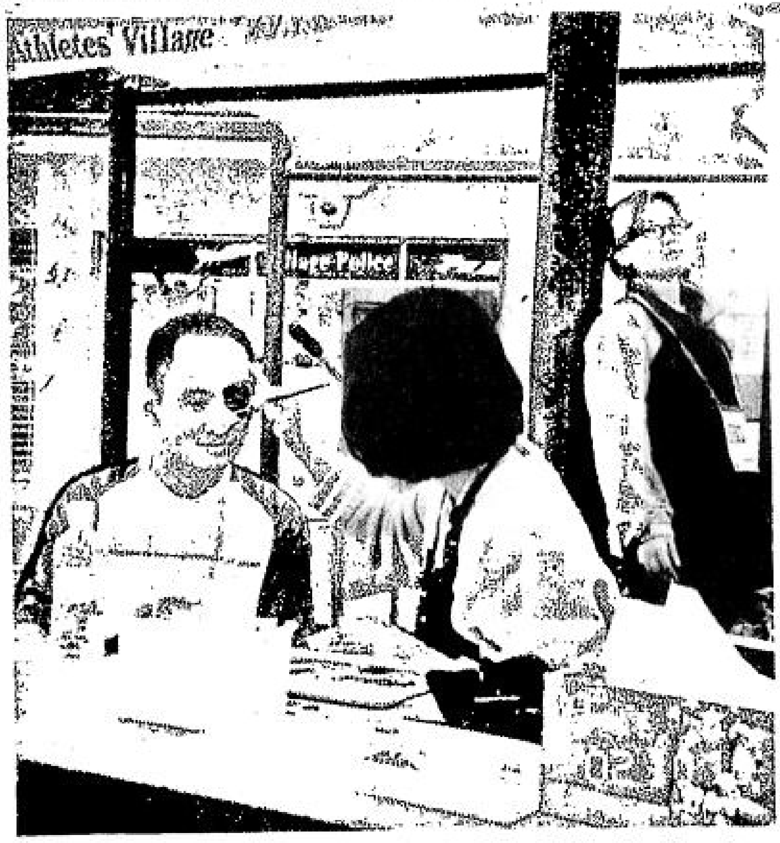

THE AUTHOR having his face painted with a Philippine flag at the Athletes' Village

Busan 'veteran' remembers

Story on page D2

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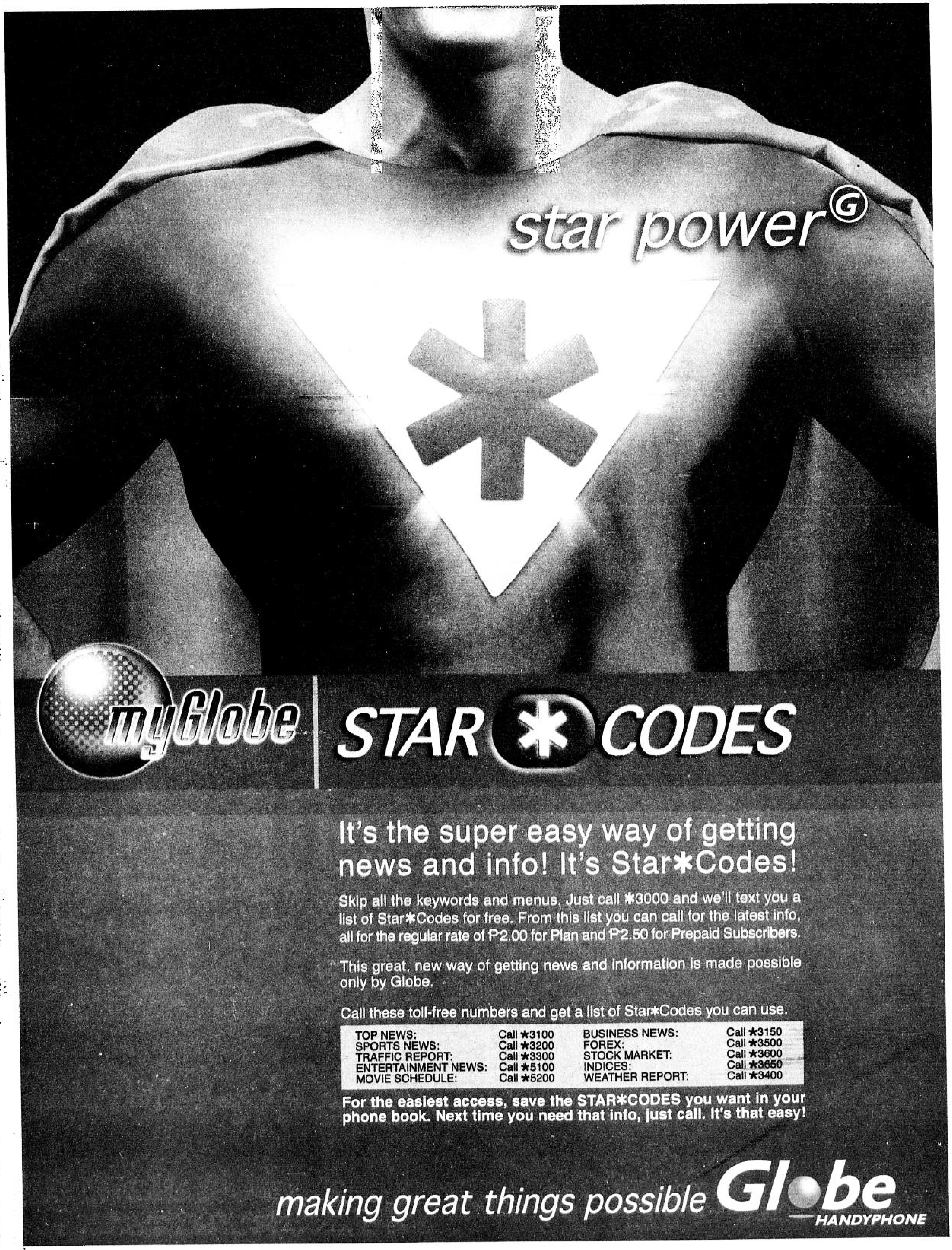

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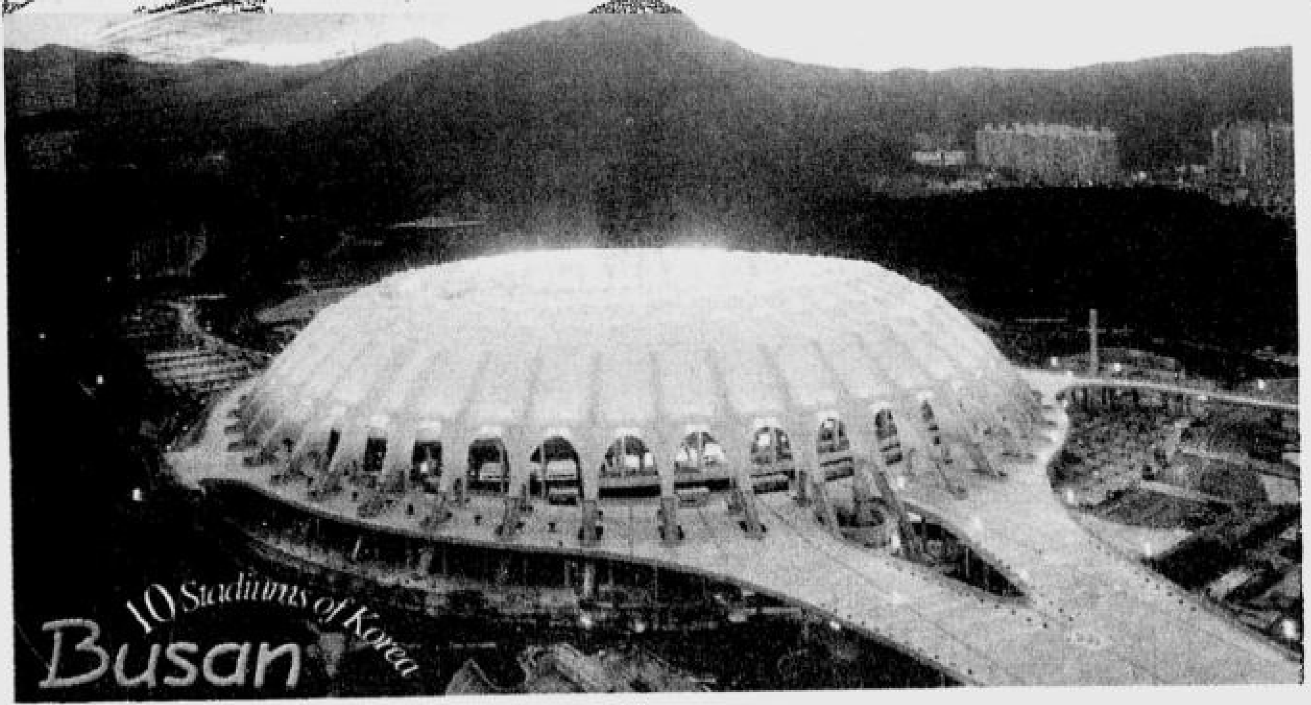


THE BUSAN Asiad main stadium, which can fit 50,000 spectators

PHILIPPINE secretariat members with gold medalists Paeng Nepomuceno and RJ Bautista

Busan 'veteran' remembers

Marching during the opening ceremony was the closest thing to feeling like a member of a boy band, as 50,000 people screamed, waved and took photographs

THE CHINESE basketball team during warm-ups

By Lorenzo Manguiat

THE biggest sporting event in this part of the globe after the Olympics is undoubtedly the Asian Games. So I was thrilled to fly to the port city of Busan in South Korea as a member of the Philippine Secretariat to assist members of the country's delegation to the 14th Asian Games.

Together with 326 Filipino athletes, coaches and team officials, I was billeted at Building 103 of the Athletes' Village, a newly constructed deluxe apartment complex with 20 buildings divided into 2,290 units. It was so new that some areas were not yet painted, and the floors in our rooms were covered with linoleum.

Security inside the village was tight. Athletes and officials were required to wear their AD/ID cards at all times.

But strolling around the vast complex sprawled over 100,000 sq m of land is an experience in itself, as one gets to see a melting pot of cultures and a kaleidoscope of athletes and officials wearing jackets with their respective countries' national colors. Around 13,000 athletes from 44 Asian countries took part in the quadrennial event.

During the early part of the Games, it was not unusual to bump into 7"5' Chinese basketball star Yao Ming, or to stand behind Thai tennis sensation Paradorn Srichaphan in the dining hall.

Highlight

One of the highlights of the Asian Games for me was marching with the Philippine delegation during the opening ceremonies. I had goose bumps as I entered the Busan Asiad Main Stadium along with the rest of the delegation. Perhaps, it was the closest thing to feeling like a member of a boy band, as 50,000 people screamed, waved and took photographs.

It was pretty weird that my temporary office for 21 days was in the same building as my living quarters were located. I would report to the office at around 9 a.m. and would sometimes stay there as late as midnight.

My main responsibilities were to gather the results of games where Pinoy athletes competed, as well as to update daily schedules and write reports to Malacañang. But I was also a telephone operator, messenger, fax and photocopy machine operator, computer expert (at least I tried to be one) and bellboy.

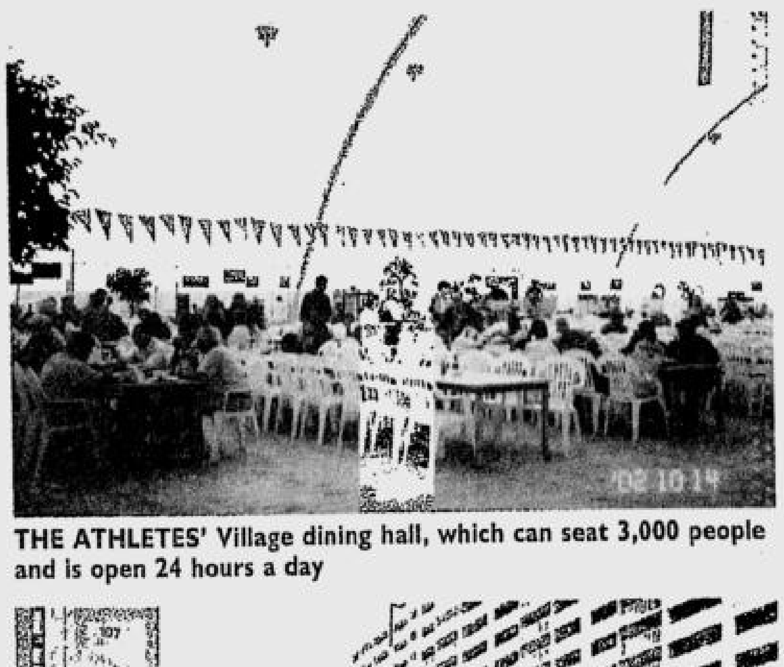
I wanted to watch the different sports live but my schedule wouldn't allow it. I only managed to attend the Philippine basketball squad's game against North Korea and Kazakhstan. The rest of our athletes' exploits I had to watch on television.

But I had no complaint. I was there. I witnessed how eerily silent and gloomy the otherwise jolly Pinoys were after the heartbreaking defeat to South Korea in basketball, or how everyone shouted for joy and gave high fives after Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski cleared the final obstacle in the equestrians' individual show-jumping event.

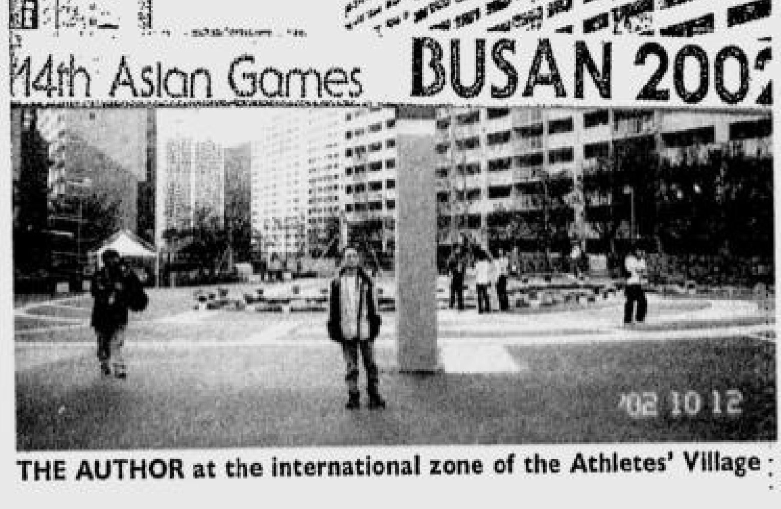
I may not have gotten a gold, a silver or even a bronze medal, but it was one of the most fulfilling experiences in my life for, somehow, I did my share—no matter how small—in ensuring that the country's campaign in the 14th Asian Games was a success.

THE AUTHOR with Philippine flag bearer Django Bustamante and Philippine secretariat members Sean Solis and Connie Masangkay

FILIPINO athletes unload 80 boxes of Korean pears donated by Korean citizens.



THE ATHLETES' Village dining hall, which can seat 3,000 people and is open 24 hours a day



THE AUTHOR at the international zone of the Athletes' Village

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More Filipino students now in the UK

Thames International Business School delivers its promise

Studying abroad for college was an unreachable dream for most Filipinos mainly because of the high cost. Three years ago, however, Thames International Business School opened its doors in the Philippines to provide students easier access to a foreign degree. To date, more than 30 Filipinos are now finishing their final college years in the United Kingdom after doing their initial two years in the Thames campus in Manila.

Below is the list of some of the students who left last September for the UK:

University of Hertfordshire:
John Pacific Castro
(BA Business Management)
Ieleen Elizabeth dela Cruz
(BA Business Joint Honors)
Marcaine Ng
(BA Business Administration)
John Joseph Perez
(BA Marketing)
Shaina Regina (BA Marketing)
Alvin Tan (BA Marketing)
University of Portsmouth:
Jojan Juson
(BSc Honors Business IT)
Eleazar Lampa
(BSc Honors Business IT)
Ma. Theresa Leung
(BSc Honors Business IT)
Jeremy Ngaw
(BSc Honors Business IT)
Jenny Ong
(BSc Honors Business IT)
Kerri Gail Ong
(BSc Honors Business IT)
Abigail Peñalosa
(BSc Honors Business IT)
Jedfrey Tan
(BSc Honors Business IT)
Oxford Brookes University:
Melvin Gaw (BA Business and Management)
Anwillsun So
(BA Business Management)
University of Plymouth:
Gamaliel Gabriento
BSc (Honors) Business IT.
Middlesex University:
Mark Seng
BA (Honors) Marketing with Management.

Aside from acquiring a high-quality and reputable degree, the experience of studying in the UK is also helping the next generation of Filipino leaders grow personally and acquire an international perspective.

"I feel I've gone a radical step further down the road of independence," is how Mark Seng describes the experience of studying abroad. "When I was studying in Manila, I only experienced college life to a limited degree and I had all the creature comforts I needed. But now, everything's different. I'm far from family, friends and all things familiar and the only lifeline that connects me to them is a credit card, a telephone and the Internet. I also do household chores by myself and the most exciting part is that I get to go around town and meet new and interesting people in the process and I like it," Mark enthuses.

As for Gamaliel Gabriento, he says that he is proud of how foreigners marvel at how Filipinos speak English fluently. "My Czech, Italian and Indian friends were all surprised that I speak English so well. They're like, 'Wow! You have good English!'" says Gamaliel. He adds that one time at class, his professor even remarked that he speaks English much better than the British since some don't know the correct rules of grammar. "It sounds ridiculous, but it's true," says Gamaliel, "and after what the professor said, I think my feet were no longer on the ground."

John Pacific Castro on the other hand, is pleased that he has learned new things in life—cooking being one of them. "I already know how to make pasta and boil eggs but I am still working on my salpicao and tapa," he says. "I haven't done any laundry yet though, because I still don't know how to. We're also trying to learn the complicated bus and train schedule around this area."

"I couldn't last a year like this! I should go back!" These were the initial thoughts of Ieleen Elizabeth dela Cruz upon arriving in Heathrow Airport but things rapidly changed in just a few days. She explains. "After a while, I got settled in and we went to London for some sightseeing, we went underground for the tube and I was happy to have finally seen Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace and the House of Parliament. It was very fun and I very much liked the experience," says Ieleen.

More Thames students are leaving for the UK and Australia by the first quarter of next year to join their friends who went ahead. The Thames system of education that allows students to take their first two years of college at Thames in the Philippines before transferring abroad is really making the dream of getting a foreign degree achievable for more Filipinos.

For more details, contact the Thames International Business School at 687-4736 to 37 or email inquire@thamesintl.com. You can also visit the Thames Campus in Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City.

SOME THAMES STUDENTS IN THE UK Clockwise, from extreme left: [illegible] *Jojan Juson, Theresa Leung, Jeremy Ngaw, PJ Castro,* [illegible] *Peñalosa, JJ Perez.*

ADVT

Battle 'kikay' adversaries with right 'weapons'

Lora Gabol

NOBODY is born perfectly beautiful. Even movie stars with seven-digit paychecks and beauty queens with a collection of tiaras wake up in the morning dreading to see their reflection on the mirror.

Needless to say lesser mortals are more likely to suffer what I would call "vanity tragedies." So I researched the most common *kikay* adversaries and, more importantly, how to combat them—and win.

Acne. Pesky zits often stand on the way of a crystal-clear complexion but, with the right products, you can keep them at a minimum. Let's get down to the root, or rather, roots of this problem: excess oil production, dead skin buildup and bacteria. The solution: get a power-packed cleanser that wages war with all three, like **Pond's Anti-Bacterial Facial Scrub** or **Clean and Clear Daily Pore Cleanser.** Invest in a blemish treatment with either benzoyl peroxide or salicylic acid (try **Acmedica Spot Gel**) and apply under makeup in the morning and before going to bed. If you find these too harsh, try tea tree oil like **The Body Shop's Tea Tree Line** and **Bench Easy Clear**. For those monster bumps called cystic acne, however, there are no two ways about it. See a reputable dermatologist.

Facial scars. If you've picked at your zits, then you probably have the scars to prove it. Those dark spots called post-inflammatory pigmentation actually fade on their own, and you should avoid hastening the process. I would not recommend harsh bleaching solutions, but I can attest to the lightening power of **L'Oreal White Perfect Triple Whitening Spot Corrector**. During the day, the key words are sun protection, so make sure both your moisturizer and makeup are packed with it. **VMV Armada Face Cover** won't clog your pores, and **Neutrogena Fine Fairness UV Compact** takes whitening to the next level with licorice and Vitamin C.

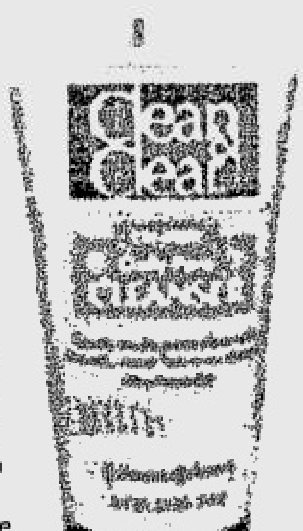
Body scars. Not much different from those on your face, except that they are on your body. Since body skin is not as sensitive as that on the face, you can use stronger products. **Block and White Ultima** has Alpha and Beta Hydroxy Acids that allow faster skin turnover, while Melawhite has lightening power. Stretch marks may not be scars, but they can ruin the look of a high-cut bikini. Unfortunately, there is no proven way to erase completely those purplish lines from your derriere. In time, they will fade with the help of exercise and a good Vitamin E moisturizer, like **Nature's Family Vitamin E Body Gel.** If you want quicker results and can afford it, see Dr. Vicki Belo for a session of **Microdermabrasion**, a procedure that deals with cellulite as well.

Dark underarms. It is natural for armpits to be a bit darker than the rest of the body but a much darker color may be cause for concern. Melanin production is your underarms' answer to rough scrubbing, and those concoctions you use probably just make things worse. Leave your "kili-kilis" for a while and watch them return to normal. In the meantime, use a deodorant/antiperspirant that does not cause darkening. **Marks and Spencer** antiperspirants are pit-friendly. **Nivea Whitening Deodorant** gradually lightens underarm skin with regular use.

Waxing is a better alternative to shaving, and never scrub the area with a rough loofah.

Undereye circles and bags. If you're beginning to look like Uncle Fester (Addams), check your sleep schedule. But if you get a good sleep and still have raccoon eyes in the morning, you need a good eye cream. **The Body Shop's Vitamin E Eye Cream** is mild enough for young skin, and so is **St. Ives Vitamin K Eye Treatment**. The bags could be genetic. If fluid retention is the problem, lay off those salty Doritos, chug down lots of *agua*, and sleep with only one pillow under your head. Some products could help disguise the shadows. **Estee Lauder's Uncircle is** made especially for dark undereye shadows.

Unruly hair. This could be the result of the hair texture you were born with, or it could be just due to a wrong cut. Visit the stylists at **Propaganda** for consultation and style update, or drop by the simple-chic **Bench Fix Salon** for trendy hair options. Invest in the right hair treatments. Start with a shampoo for your hair type and, please, do not skip the conditioner. Washing hair without conditioning should be outlawed as the hair needs to be moisturized. For luxurious hair care, splurge on **Clinique Hair Care System** or, if your budget is limited, try the new lines from **Pantene.** If there is no time for conditioner in the shower, use a leave-on. I swear by **Cream Silk Leave-on Conditioner** for a quick fix. Before stepping out, work a dollop of a shine-enhancing anti-frizz product, like **St. Ives Shine Boost Laminator**, to keep flyaways at bay.



Rough skin. You can't dare to bare when you've got bumps all over your body! If it is a case of forgetting to exfoliate, opt for an instant, easy scrub-down by using a creamy body wash with a bath lily or loofah mitt in the shower. I love the classic, refreshing scent of **Neutrogena Rain Bath.** You can try **St. Ives Clear Pore Body Wash** with tea tree oil and Hydroxy Acids. To restore moisture after lathering up, use an exfoliating body moisturizer like **Jergens Skin Smoothing Lotion** or **VMV Id Face and Body Exfoliating Lotion.**

St. Ives, Neutrogena, Nivea, Jergens, L'Oreal, Cream Silk, Pantene, Ponds, Acmedica, Clean and Clear and Block and White at PCX and health and beauty stores; Estee Lauder and Clinique at Rustan's; Nature's Family and VMV at leading department stores. Propaganda at 2/F Greenbelt, call 893-4098; Bench Fix at Glorietta 4 Cinema Level; Dr. Vicki Belo at the Belo Medical Group, call 373-3355.

E-mail the author at pdi_vanityfare@ hotmail.com

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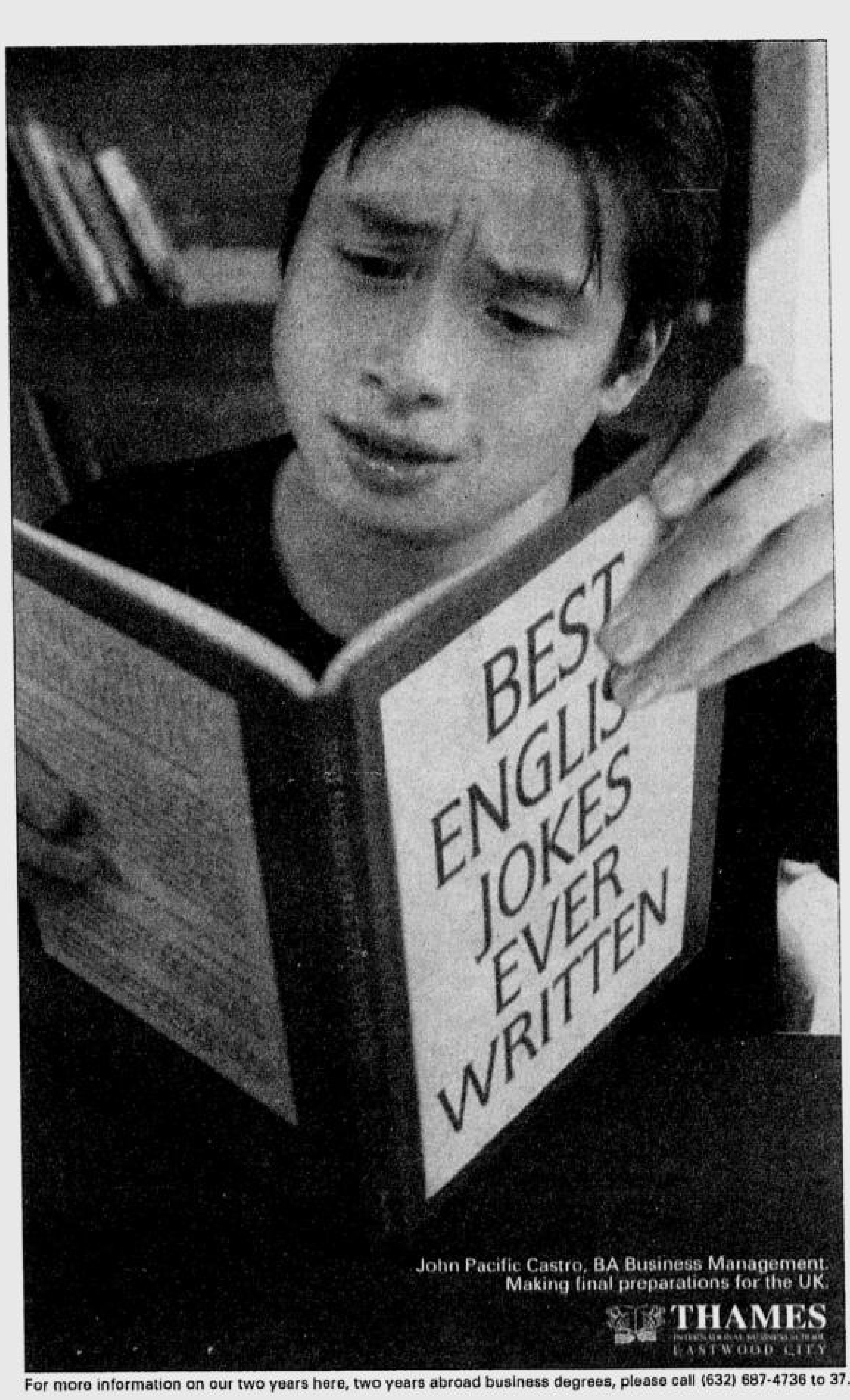
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Bayo is Outstanding Filipino Retailer for 2002

THE PHILIPPINE Retailers Association and the Department of Trade and Industry recently awarded the Outstanding Retailer of the Year to Bayo, the 10-year-old fashion retail chain of stores. Bayo is famous for its reasonably-priced clothing created for the young market, seamlessly fusing the latest trends with the most basic clothing. The ceremony was held at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel.

Indeed, a decade of always being in touch with its market has paid off for Bayo, which started in 1992 as a made-to-order business. Later on, sisters Lynn and Corcor, with their husbands Ferdie Agustin and Sonny Bitong respectively, decided to expand the venture and open a store in Greenhills. The brand was primarily established to design and create quality clothes that every Filipina can afford, with the added aim of creating job opportunities. Starting with teenswear, Bayo has now evolved into a prime destination for young adults looking for quality clothing. Bayo now has 24 stores in the country, four of which are franchise-owned.

Bayo was also last year's recipient of the Store of the Year recognition from the Ayala Malls Merchants, for their Alabang Town Center and Glorietta stores. It was the Shopping Center Management Corporation's Top Sales Performer for 2001, and was a finalist in the 2001 PRA Outstanding Filipino Retailer.

Learn English the easy way

VINE Communications Inc. has rescheduled Module A of "English The Easy Way" to Nov. 19, 21, 26 and 28, 7-9 p.m., at the Vinecom Lecture Hall on 7 Brooklyn St., Cubao, QC.

The seminar is geared towards high school, college, advanced ESL and professionals, who would like to speak and write English without having to go through the drudgery of definitions like nouns, verbs and pronouns. This practical approach to English will be taught for the first time in the Philippines.

Other seminars slated by Vine Communications are Creative Writing Made Easy Modules C (Nov. 16) and D (Dec. 7). This seminar expands on the webbing technique which enables people to organize their thoughts more quickly, write more easily and with greater depth. While all modules are linked, they are not sequential. Hence, first-timers will benefit from either of the two modules.

A Magazine Writing and Editing seminar will be held on Dec. 14, 9 a.m.-4 pm. All seminars will be held at the Vinecom Lecture Hall.

Call 721-7976, 850-8603, (0919) 242-0238, (0917) 832-5536. Limited slots available.

Don't worry, be unhappy

By Regina Khan

WHILE sitting in a café, watching people go by and sipping the last drop of my coffee, a voice from behind asked, "Are you happy?"

Normally, I don't get spooked when accosted from the rear, but since I was sitting against a wall, it was kind of perturbing. Am I happy?

The answer to a question coming from a disembodied voice only I can hear may seem obvious. But since I am a primarily a sane person, this sudden neurotic seizure must've been the result of drinking decaf.

What is happiness? It isn't just the absence of sadness, is it? I remember a quote I read years ago from Abd-er-Rahman III of Spain. In 960 C.E. he declared, "I have now reigned about 50 years in victory or peace, beloved by my subjects, dreaded by my enemies and respected by my allies. Riches and honors, power and pleasure, have waited on my call, nor does any earthly blessing appear to have been wanting to my felicity. In this situation, I have diligently numbered the days of pure and genuine happiness, which have fallen to my lot: they amount to 14." He should be so lucky.

I'm inclined to believe that the human race is generally unhappy. Why else would books like "Being Happy" become bestsellers? Or why would publishers keep reprinting the works of Og Mandino, Norman Vincent Peale and Robert H. Schuller? I'm guessing that it's because generations upon generations of unhappy people constantly seek solace in someone else's happy thoughts. But these inspirational books might actually be doing humankind a great disservice by making people believe in what I call "The Happiness Hoax." These writers conspire to propagate the notion that everyone could be happy, because if a lot of people believe them, that would mean millions of dollars in royalty and fully-booked seminars around the world.

I'm not saying that happiness isn't real. What I doubt is the existence of genuinely happy people. We all know that unhappiness is caused by suffering; and from the Buddhists, we've learned that suffering is caused by desire. To eliminate suffering, we must eliminate desire. Now tell me, what man or woman—who isn't in a coma—does not have desire? It seems that anyone who desires to be happy is already doomed to fail.

> Inspirational books might be doing humankind a great disservice by making people believe in 'The Happiness Hoax'

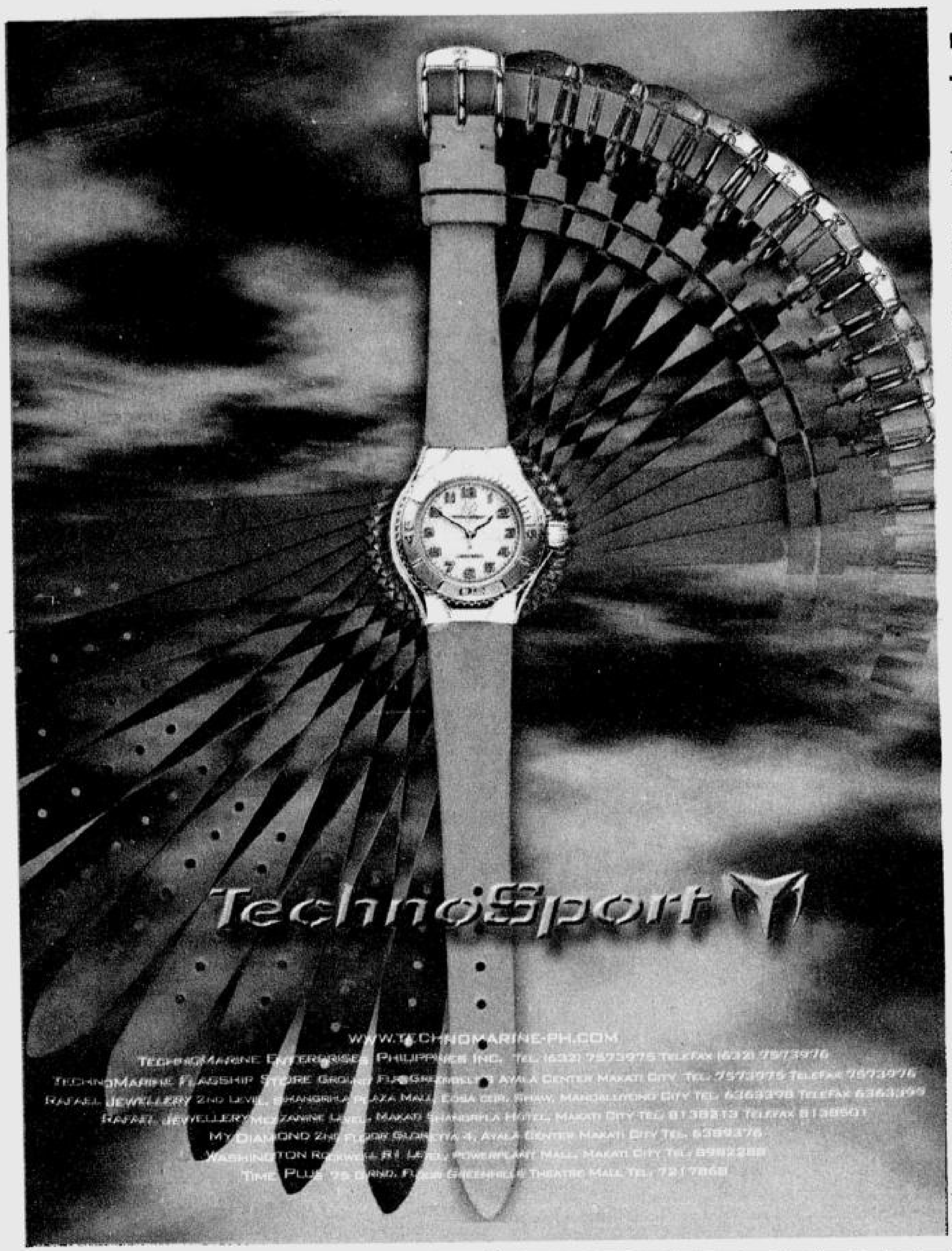
A delusion

But I believe that everyone could be happy about particular things. For instance, "I'm happy that fuchsia is making a comeback"; "I'm happy that acetaminophens are non-prescription drugs"; "I'm happy that one can be acquitted of a crime by reasons of insanity." But, to say, "I'm happy" without a qualifying phrase after it is delusional. I was watching a television talk show the other day, and the host asked a celebrity if she was happy. The guest said yes, she was happy at this point in her life, and she believed that with a little more effort and the right attitude, she could become even happier.

Now that's all wrong. If you were really happy, you wouldn't need to be "happier." In a statement like that, there is no such thing as "happier." Either you're happy or you're not.

In any case, why do we consider unhappiness to be such a bad thing? Depression could be constructive and fruitful, even rewarding. Take Jose Rizal, writer-turned-national hero. Would he have been able to write "Noli Me Tangere" if he had a bottle of Prozac on hand? I believe we should embrace our unhappiness and regard life as a constant struggle. Instead of taking our cue from happiness hoaxers, let's just wallow in the wisdom of this 20th century poem: "There's little in taking or giving, there's little in water or wine; this living, this living, this living was never a project of mine./ Oh hard is the struggle, and sparse is the gain of the one at the top/ For art is a form of catharsis/ And love is a permanent flop/ And work is the province of cattle/ And rest's for a clam in a shell. So I'm thinking of throwing the battle—would you kindly direct me to hell?"

E-mail the author at heyregEhan@yahoo.com



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Tales of coming out

RUPERT Everett: "I couldn't be bothered to lie"

Confessing that one's gay doesn't end the story. One has to face a new set of problems

By Armin Adina

"I'M gay." This declaration, made by homosexuals coming out of the closet, has become one of the most singular statements of recent social history.

Whether cave or closet, the analogy of coming out connotes liberation. But for some, the coming out has been the easy part. Remaining out and living a normal life has been very much a struggle.

Comedienne Ellen DeGeneres is one of the most popular lesbians in Hollywood. She confessed to Betty, her mother, during a walk on a Mississippi beach more than 20 years ago. Betty was disappointed but she put her arm around her daughter.

Accepting her daughter was not instantaneous. But Betty learned to accept her daughter's sexuality over time. Now, she is the spokesperson of the Human Rights Campaign's National Coming Out Project. She travels to tell people from all over the United States how she came to terms with her daughter's sexuality, and how love and acceptance can transform a family. She even wrote a book, "Love, Ellen," chronicling her relationship with the TV star.

Perhaps one of the most envied men in show business is actor Rupert Everett. Gay men either want to be him or get in bed with him. Beautiful women want him for their "girlfriend."

Everett publicly declared his true sexuality in 1989 because he "couldn't be bothered to lie." "If I hadn't been gay, I wouldn't have done anything," he said.

Rosie O'Donnell, who rivaled Oprah Winfrey on television, is a recently "outed" gay woman. She openly declared her homosexuality in an interview with Diane Sawyer on "Primetime" that tackled the issue of the Florida law banning gays from adopting children. O'Donnell has three adoptive children—Parker, 6, Chelsea, 4,

TALES p.E2

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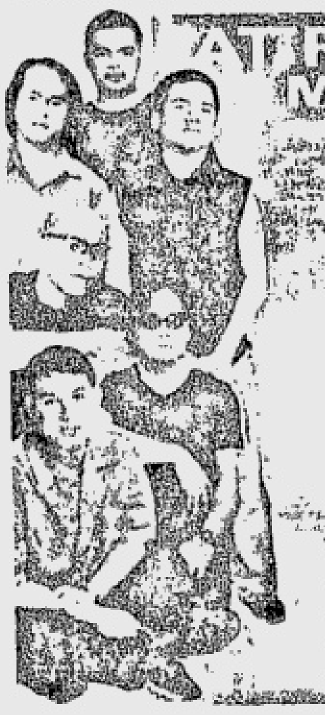

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Tales of coming OUT

FRANK

From page E1

and Blake, 2. She came out to show that gay people could be good parents to adopted children.

Film, television and stage actor Ian McKellen came out as a gay man in 1988 when he joined the Arts Lobby against Section 28, a law forbidding city and county governments from "promoting homosexuality" in the United Kingdom. He was knighted in 1991 for his contribution to the arts.

During the 1993 inaugural ball for President Bill Clinton, rock diva Melissa Etheridge came out. Even before that, she had reaped Grammies for female rock vocal performance. She is a close pal of DeGeneres and O'Donnell.

Wilson Cruz, who played the gay Ricky Vasquez in "My So-Called Life," opened up to his parents and friends when he was 19, just shortly before he came out publicly. He did so because "he couldn't live a lie." He has since become an important figure in gay causes.

Actor/comic Jason Stuart's career also benefited after he came out nationally on "The Gerardo Rivera Show" in 1993 in an episode entitled "Unconventional Comedians."

Ambidextrous

NAVRATILOVA

DeGENERES

EVERETT

Tennis superstar Martina Navratilova, born in Czechoslovakia, proclaimed her bisexuality in July 1981, shortly after being granted US citizenship. She did so at the peak of her sports career. "I came to live in a country I love; some people label me a defector. I have loved men and women in my life; I've been labeled 'the bisexual defector.' Want to know another secret? I'm even ambidextrous. I don't like labels. Just call me Martina," she said.

Her declaration cost her millions of dollars in endorsement opportunities because of corporate homophobia. A year after, she became the first female athlete to earn more than $1 million a year. She was inducted into the Tennis Hall of Fame in 2000.

Massachusetts Representative Barney Frank is the first openly gay congressman in the United States. He disclosed his sexuality in 1987, six years after he was elected. He has been fighting for gay rights since the '70s. He still continues the fight on his 11th year in Congress.

But it's not all good stories for high-profile gay men and women. A South Korean television personality lost so much after he publicly declared his homosexuality. Hong Suk-Chon was taken out of the children's program he was hosting. Most of his television and radio jobs were also withdrawn. South Korea has a gay culture, but it rarely talks about homosexuality. Homosexuality is deemed bad and dirty. Hong said, "I was angry at the fact that in Korea no one wants to acknowledge the existence of homosexuality...working on a children's program, I couldn't keep my secret forever. I wanted to be a good example to the children by being honest and that's why I came out."

ETHERIDGE

O'DONNELL

One can never be too old to come out. Austin Rogers was 76 years old when he told his family and friends he is gay. His son-in-law was surprised. Both his wife and daughter had passed away. "This is great, you've done everything that society expects you to do and here you are alone...I started to get angry," he said. He felt so low that he decided to finally be himself. He had admitted it to his wife long ago but they continued to live as if it was not true.

Meanwhile, here in the Philippines, being "half-out" is quite common among gays. In this situation, gays are out only to their close friends and act straight in the company of family and strangers. Such is the case of DJ de Mesa from Mandaluyong. He was left with no choice but to admit his sexuality in two instances.

First, his creative director asked him if he was gay. Previously, his boss had complained that his work was not gay enough.

Second, his best friend, a girl, had insisted on joining him in one of his nights out on Orosa St, Malate. The next day, she asked him why he took her to a place where everybody looked gay and lesbian. He had no choice but to confess. It took only two seconds before she could say, "Ah, okay."

Some people have remained inside the closet. Others do not even think of stepping out. Still others do not know that they are in the closet. Coming out opens one to a lot of uncertainty. Somebody said once that if it is cold inside the closet, it's even more chilling outside.

CRUZ

New vids on the block:

Missed misses return

Carey and Aguilera return after a 'sabbatical' while Madonna makes over James Bond song

By Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

"Through the Rain"

Mariah Carey

After the breakdown and the flick that flopped, Ms Eight octaves picks up her brittle pieces and returns with "Through the Rain," a preview of what's to come since another album is soon to be released.

For the video, Mariah Carey dresses her age wearing flattering garb that reveals a lot less cleavage than what we're used to seeing, and sporting makeup and hairstyle that actually fit her. Forever the butterfly fanatic, Carey flaunts a bracelet with little butterflies and a pair of denim pants with the same embellishment. "Through the Rain" sounds like your usual Mariah ("Can't Take That Away" or "Never Too Far"). Not glass-shattering but still inspiring (tune in to Myx and ponder on the Chicken Soup for the soul-inspired/Hallmark greeting card lyrics).

The video is all about a girl who leaves her parents, follows her heart and eventually ends up with a colored guy whom she grows old with.

Since the song is entitled "Through the Rain," expect to see Mariah singing in the rain while other umbrella-ed people whizz past her, totally reminiscent of videos from Oasis and Christina Aguilera.

All in all, the grown-up Mariah sure looks great but she could've done better by sticking to her pattern and releasing a more upbeat ditty in introducing a new album.

"I Don't Need Yo! Money"

Geneva Cruz

Heavily (and obviously) inspired by the songs and videos of J. Lo, this latest offering from Geneva Cruz gives a peek at her upcoming album, which promises to be yet another J. Lo rip-off.

The video's first 30 seconds actually look impressive thanks to the editing and the transition devices used, but when you see Geneva speeding in a car, then the whole J. Lo rip-off manifests itself. Most parts of the video actually look like snippets from a "Love Don't Cost a Thing" and, come to think of it, the stanzas sound like those of J. Lo's too. Even Choke-O, one of the rappers in Cruz's vid looks and sounds a lot like Ja Rule.

Despite all these, both the song and the music video are pretty good, above average efforts that could use more originality.

"Dirrty"

Christina Aguilera

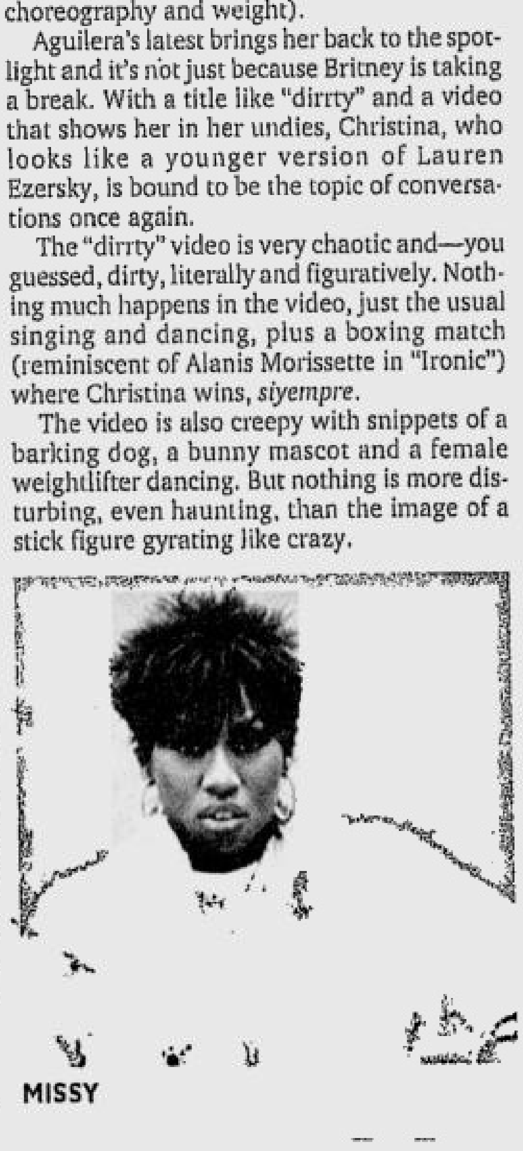
MADONNA

Everybody knows that Christina is a better singer than Britney Spears. She can do a complicated roller-coaster ride with her vocals while all Britney can do is a nasal ho-hum (but Christina fans do acknowledge that Spears has an edge when it comes to boobs, choreography and weight).

Aguilera's latest brings her back to the spotlight and it's not just because Britney is taking a break. With a title like "dirrty" and a video that shows her in her undies, Christina, who looks like a younger version of Lauren Ezersky, is bound to be the topic of conversations once again.

The "dirrty" video is very chaotic and—you guessed, dirty, literally and figuratively. Nothing much happens in the video, just the usual singing and dancing, plus a boxing match (reminiscent of Alanis Morissette in "Ironic") where Christina wins, *siyempre*.

The video is also creepy with snippets of a barking dog, a bunny mascot and a female weightlifter dancing. But nothing is more disturbing, even haunting, than the image of a stick figure gyrating like crazy.



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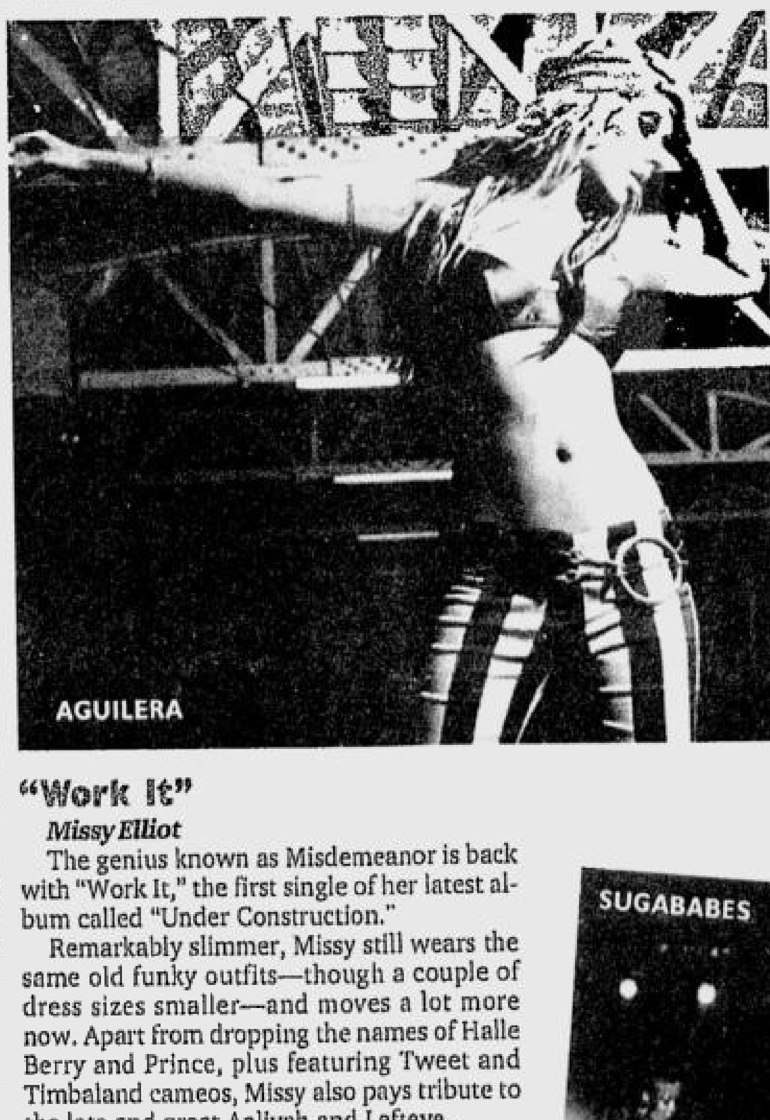

AGUILERA

"Work It"

Missy Elliot

The genius known as Misdemeanor is back with "Work It," the first single of her latest album called "Under Construction."

Remarkably slimmer, Missy still wears the same old funky outfits—though a couple of dress sizes smaller—and moves a lot more now. Apart from dropping the names of Halle Berry and Prince, plus featuring Tweet and Timbaland cameos, Missy also pays tribute to the late and great Aaliyah and Lefteye.

The video is an eye candy and one wouldn't get tired of it even after the 10th viewing. They use a lot of settings—the parlor, playground, carpark—which is a real visual treat.

There are also Missy's trademark visual effects like the computer-generated flies and the one where Missy's mouth opens extra-wide to swallow a toy car. Engaging, funny and visually-pleasing, this vid scores a perfect 5 out of 5 remote controls.

"Round Round"

Sugababes

With a little change in the line-up (Willa Ford look-alike Heidi replaced Siobhan), the babes of Sugababes return with their distinctive sound of guitar-laden Britpop laced with R&B.

In the video for "Round Round," (which is also included in the Guru Motion Picture Soundtrack), the girls wear black and sport distinctive hairstyles. Keisha goes for braids, Heidi does an exaggerated Parker Lewis and Mutya (whose dad is Pinoy) sports asymmetrical pigtails that resemble branches of a *balete* tree.

The video features the Sugababes performing in the eye of a tornado, sucking in stuff from the audience like a ring, a television set and a pair of sunglasses. Heidi's presence is emphasized in the video by having her sing the bridge, which sounds like an entirely separate song, and by showing that among the three, she's the only one who could attract a glance from an attractive bloke.

"Die Another Day"

Madonna

Madonna is back, singing the title track of the new James Bond movie, where she has a bit role as a fencing instructor (which explains why fencing is all over the music video).

Continuing her string of techno dance songs, the song, written especially for the movie, definitely sounds a bit too upbeat than your usual James Bond song. "Die Another Day" sure sounds different from "The World Is Not Enough" and other 007 songs in the past.

In the video, which hints at the cruelty of the (uhm) Nazis, Madonna is dragged into a torture chamber, strapped to an electric chair but manages to escape. There are also snippets of two Madonnas fighting, with the one in black losing (how predictable).

The video ends with something similar to the usual back-lit James Bond that opens a film, with Madonna taking the place of the spy and looking like she's losing her balance.

SUGABABES

E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com

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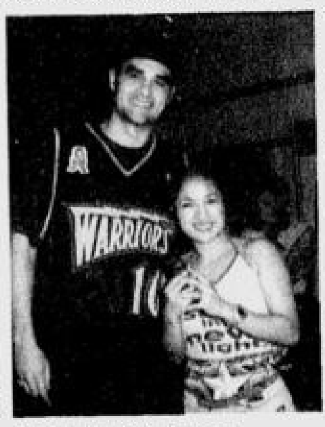
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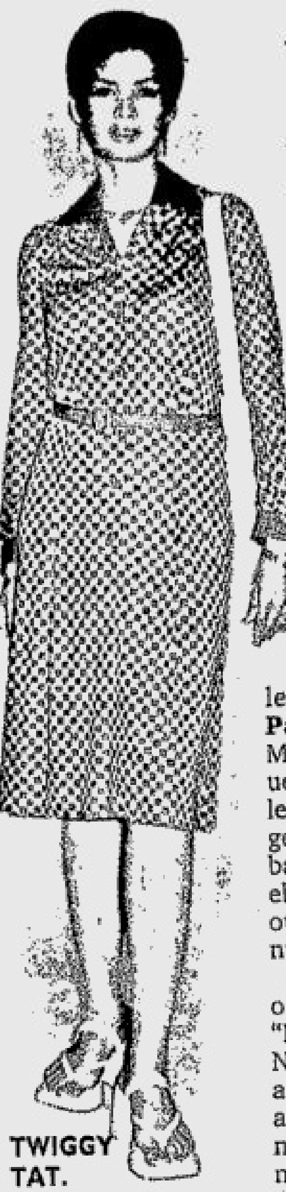
DANCE, DANCE, DANCE. Joey's "Disco Nights" bringing out all the reminiscing radiance in these revelers.

ZIGZAG ANS STRIPES. Marco Borlongan and Bianne Tupas of 92.3


TWIGGY TAT. Antoinette Ocampo stands out in a vintage Hanae Mori.

Disco fever

Tim Yap

"THIS generation probably thinks 'Papa Don't Preach' is an original song by **Kelly Osbourne**," I overheard designer **Rajo Laurel** say at an after-theater dinner gathering at Sala one weekend.

"Of course not," answered **Thea Jacinto**, the youngest in our group, who is in her high school year at the International School. "It's by **Madonna**—and we all know it."

Credit the young to know the origins of all things pop. For aside from what they learn from MTV VJ **Belinda Panelo** in her "Mush" show on MTV, there are a number of venues where the young and the restless get their fill of '70s and '80s gems. Aside from the usual showband venues around town ("Celebration" and "YMCA" overload), our FM radio band loves the reminiscing route.

So when 92.3 Joey, that haven of hip chill sound hosted their "Disco Nights" "par-teeh" at the NBC Tent some weeks back, it was a soiree filled with mirror balls and happening hipsters. The more mature partyphiles feasted on the nostalgia and the refreshing vibe (no thump-thump techno beats). Authentic LP (long playing) discs from yesteryears—from Joey's vast music library—served as the invites for the night's event.

Fashion statements and "misstatements" were aplenty (it was the '80s, remember?). From the dressed-down youngsters to fully decked revelers in preppie, punk and prints galore, it was a fashion feast for the eyes.

To enhance the disco diva décor, designer **Jun Jun Ablaza**, who came as a Brit goth, complete with eye makeup and all, decked the Tent with 60 or so mirror balls in all shapes and sizes—perfect for that Joey "Star-gazing" night of swaying hips and shoulder pads.

Antoinette Ocampo was in a vintage Hanae Mori dress. Joey PR lady **Ria Romero** wore fuchsia boots and boss man **Marco Borlongan** was in a Polo-Fiorucci-Gucci prep ensemble. **Juan Miguel Salvador** and his Rage band completed the '80s lineup.

DISCO DIVAS. Ria Romero, Tina Tinio and Cris Golamco

DUTCH TREAT. KLM'S Joey Laurente with winners Ruben Enguio and Christine Hipe

Later, a dance contest erupted that would put dance fever to shame. The winning pair went home with KLM business class tickets to Europe, no less! Partyphiles went home with hyper-active dancing feet and a new ear for disco melodies from another era, made fresh once more by Joey 92.3—"who our radio should be."

MTV European Awards 2002

Talking about music, an exciting global event will happen this Friday at Palau Sant Jordi in Barcelona, Spain. The much-awaited MTV European Awards will bring together the likes of **Bon Jovi, Christina Aguilera, Coldplay, Eminem, Enrique Iglesias, Foo Fighters, Moby, Pink, Robbie Williams, Whitney Houston** and **Wyclef Jean**. Whew! Definitely sounds like a powerhouse musical cast of heavyweights as only MTV can manage to pull off.

I heard glam daddy **P. Diddy** will host. The presenters? **Rupert Everett, Jade Jagger, Kylie Minogue**, Barcelona star striker **Patrick Kluivert**, Spanish supermodel **Esther Canadas**, the Pet Shop Boys, **Robbie Williams, Moby**, Eminem, **Pierce Brosnan, Halle Berry**, to name a few.

What can I say? Tune in to our favorite music channel to witness the spectacle. Better yet, hop on KLM Dutch Airlines and head off to Barcelona. Olé!

What to tell visiting 'stateside' cousins

Carlos Garchitorena
& September Mahino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

My cousins are coming over from the United States and I'm really worried about what to tell them. Everyone, especially the Department of Tourism under Secretary Dick Gordon, is talking about Filipinos acting as ambassadors of PR for the Philippines, but I want to be fair. What should I tell my cousins?

JOE

The Philippines has many problems, and the biggest problem I see is Filipinos don't know what they deserve under the rule of law. Apathy is the most serious social ill to me. So many times have I sat on a bus stuck in an intersection because the driver ignored the green light, deliberately blocking five other buses so he can get more passengers. Once in a while I find enough courage to urge the driver to move his bus. But people actually take this in stride, twiddling their thumbs, seemingly thinking there is no other way.

More often, when driving my car, I get stuck behind these morons only to find out, upon turning a corner, that there is a policeman or a MMDA traffic enforcer just standing there, thoughtfully puffing on a cigarette.

Perhaps the issue of terrorism and peace and order are foremost in the minds of policemen on the street. But no one seems to make the connection between following the law and eradicating lawlessness. It might not be a good example. The point is, if only everyone had the mental discipline and the attitude to do things the right way, then there would be fewer evildoers, and less dark alleys where they can commit crime.

Majority, if not all, of street corners on Edsa have jeepneys blatantly disobeying "No Loading, Unloading" signs. Dispatchers stand on the corners shouting at the top of their lungs and in full view of cops.

The cops are everywhere, keeping a sharp eye on private vehicles but ignoring public vehicles that are "regulars." That means they regularly break the law, which probably means they regularly pay for the cops' lunch, *merienda*, and even bottles of gin. Although they pass right in front of military and police camps, these common criminals have no fear of getting caught. Everyone is up in arms only over highly publicized crimes like kidnappings and bombings.

In Israel, bombings are a terrible, unwanted fact of life. But the citizens of Israel are more vigilant and united against a common enemy. They police their own ranks, without losing their respect for the laws of the land.

In this country, every day, without fail, I hear 20 crimes committed. That is not an exaggeration. I'm sure you hear about them, too. But like 90 percent of the population, you probably take it in stride. Smoke belchers, people waiting for buses right beneath signs that prohibit them from doing so, 10-year-olds selling *sampaguita* at 12 mn (what happened to the curfew, Mayor Binay?). Where are the traffic enforcers? I see police cars on Pasay Road in front of nightclubs but no cops. And how is it that when I do see them on McKinley Road, they seem not to have a care in the world—chatting, smoking and texting?

If there is one completely honest and dedicated cop out there, he would be making 10 arrests and writing 10 traffic violation tickets a day. If there is a decent, honest mayor out there, squatters wouldn't be coddled, and graft and corruption wouldn't be the standard operating procedure in the engineer's office at the city hall.

What has MMDA chair Fernando been doing? Already, MMDA officials on the road are getting lazy, although the fight has hardly begun.

What to tell your relatives who are visiting the country? Tell them that the Philippines is the "Wild, Wild East," where the law is merely a suggestion, and patience is a virtue forced upon you by the self-centeredness of the majority. Tell them it isn't the terrorist they have to fear but pollution and high blood pressure. Tell them to stay the hell away from Metro Manila. The real Philippines is where there is nobody around to spoil a beautiful vacation.

CALOY

If there is one essential thing you could tell your cousins about our country, tell them there are a lot of subcultures within the Filipino culture.

The attitude and pace in Metro Manila is very different from the lifestyle and mindset in the province, even if it is not that far from the city. So the traffic, pollution and disregard for traffic rules your cousins would immediately encounter upon arriving in the country is not a fair representation of the Philippines.

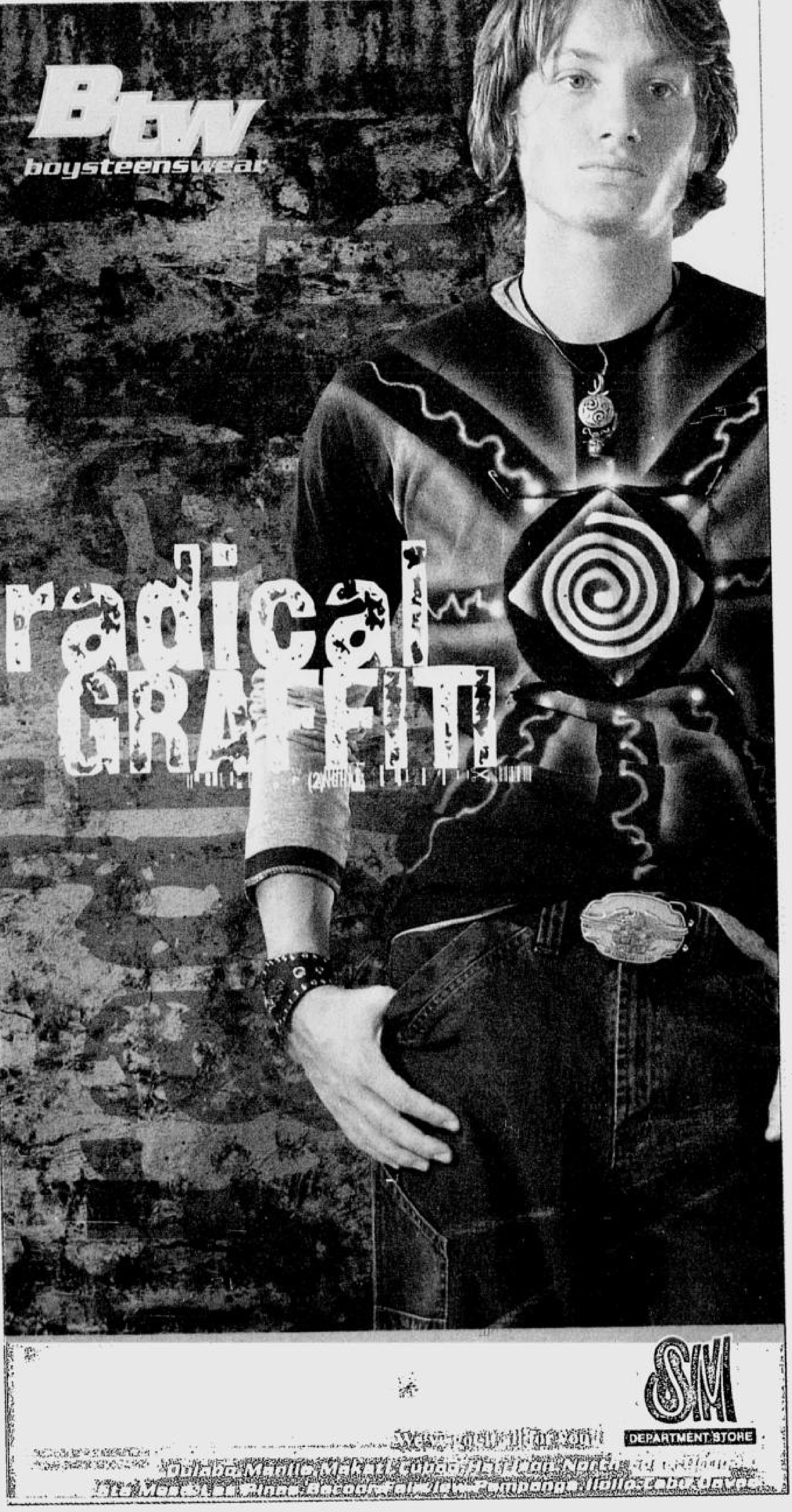
As to law and order, you can't describe the situation in the Philippines without lying, so I suggest you leave your cousins to decide what safety measures to take.

I presume they have heard about travel advisories concerning the Philippines, as well as problems on terrorism. If they still want to come here, then you just remind them to be careful. Of course, you should also guide them around the city so they would know what places Filipinos consider safe and unsafe.

I have to admit it is hard to give this advice because I don't want to make generalizations that would be unfair to the Filipino culture. Maybe the best thing you can say whenever your cousins encounter an attitude or a phrase or a habit or a dish that strikes them as odd, deviant, foul or gross, is that every culture has its own unique characteristics.

Just as Americans seem to be the most celebrity-obsessed people on earth with their various manias, entertainment shows and instant-fame contests, we are who we are because of historical forces and adaptation to the changing environment. That, I think, is the fairest explanation you can give without being too cheesy or judgmental. Otherwise, I don't really see the need for you to defend the Philippine culture. Your cousins would think what they want to think and you are not compelled to enlighten them.

SEP



Spell c-o-o-l

LET'S say that you get your foot in the door and the rest of you is still outside—what do you want your shoes to say about you?

Cool. Fun. Laidback. Anything but dull. And how about putting on such namesakes as "adrenaline-filled" and "lust for life"? Well, if you've got a good head on your shoulders, if the future is in your hands, chances are, Airwalk is on your feet.

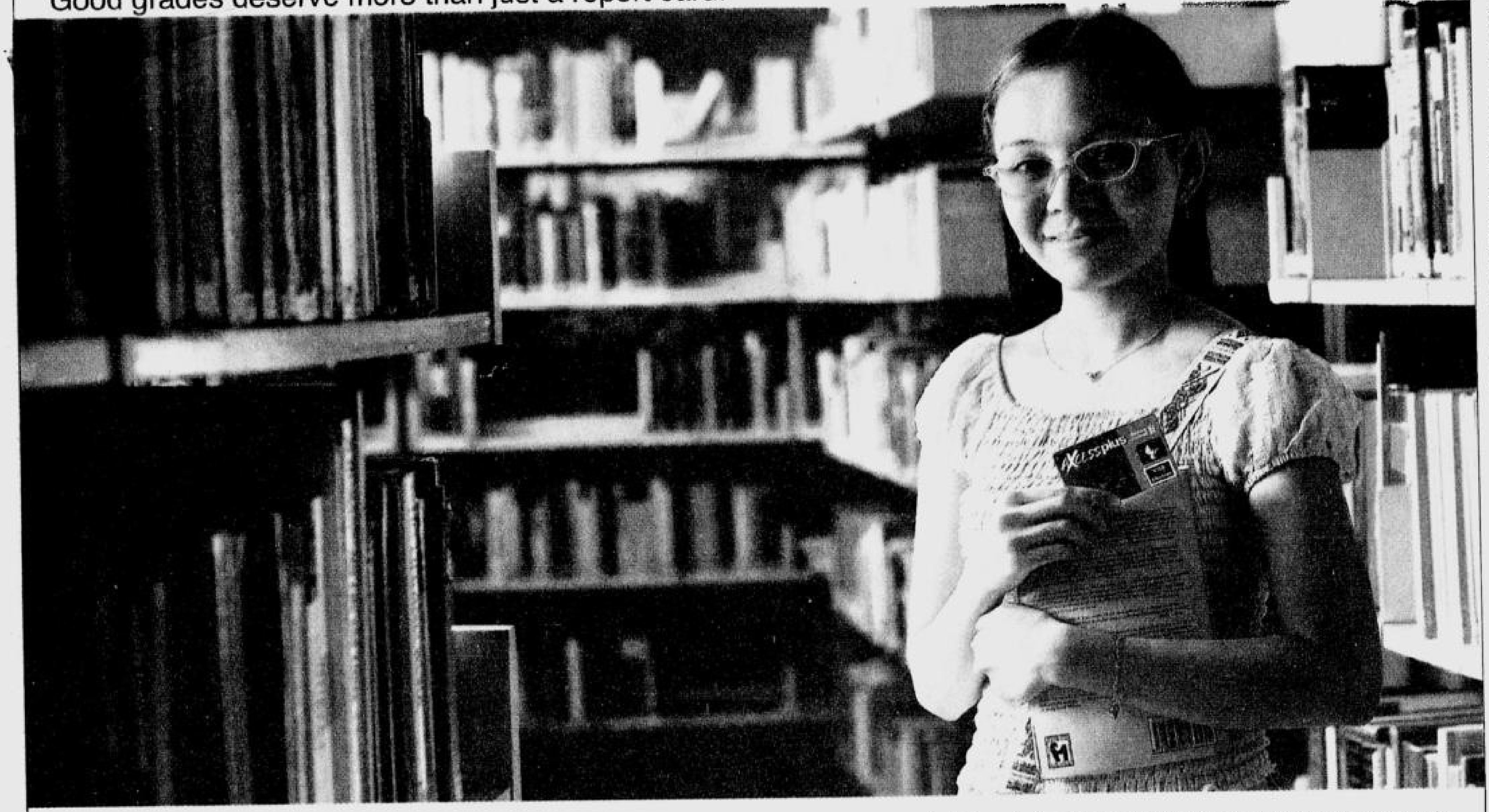
There's something soulful about the bottom of Airwalk shoes—they lift you off the ground—and frankly, it's okay to have your head on the clouds as long as your feet are up there, too (must be why they call them "soles"). And, hey, an Airwalk pair is a good stepping off point.

A wide array of styles and colors are yours to choose from. It's your choice—from kickin' mubuck sandals to couch-potato casual leathers to skateboard-savvy styles, Airwalk reflects your cool nature and your tenacity for life. Airwalk focuses on comfort, style and durability—nothing less and so much more.

Airwalk is available at the Airwalk Shops in SM City North Edsa, SM Southmall, SM City Cebu, The Outlet Yard, Robinsons Place Iloilo, Robinsons Pace Bacolod and other leading shoe stores nationwide.

Standard Chartered

Good grades deserve more than just a report card.



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25
Wow! Peace man! Yo! Give me five!"

25 years na ang Greenhills Christmas Bangketa Fair ng mga hippies noon at hip-hops ngayon.

HSBC
The world's local bank

Hanep talaga ang Greenhills Shopping Center. Covering all shoppers' needs mula lonta, toga, at yoyo ng 70's hanggang playstations, computers, at cellphones ng 21st century. At dahil 25 years na ang paborito niyong bangketa, 1,500 stalls ang bukas para sa tropa!

Check out Greenhills Christmas Bangketa Fair's 25th anniversary from November 15 to January 5, 2003 at GSC. Ang bangketang heavy, mapapa-yes-yes-yo ka talaga!

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER